

## Ruling party wins Tunisian by-elections

TUNIS (AP) — Candidates from the ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD) won all five parliamentary seats in partial elections this weekend. Interior Minister Habib Ammar said Monday. The results of the Sunday elections assured the party's continued total control of the 120-seat national legislature, which has been monopolised by the PSD since Tunisia's independence from France 31 years ago. The elections were seen as a test of Tunisia's new president, Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, who has promised to restore a democratic system of government. The turnout for the voting in four cities varied between 56 and 76.46 per cent. Ammar said, giving the official election results which in each case showed a wide victory margin for the winning candidate. Twenty-four candidates were running for the five seats, representing four districts: one in Tunis, one in the southern mining centre of Gafsa, one in Zaghouan, a rural community 60 kilometres south of Tunis, and two in Monastir. The main opposition party, the Movement of Social Democrats, boycotted the elections, saying it could not seek seats in a parliament "representing neither the reality nor the diversity" of Tunisian opinion.

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## Their Majesties to visit Austria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will pay an official visit to Austria during the first half of February at the invitation of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and Mrs. Waldheim, the royal court announced Monday. Waldheim visited Jordan in July last year.

## His Majesty congratulates Australia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Australia's Governor General Ninian Martin Stephen congratulating him on the occasion of the second centennial of the founding of Australia. The King expressed pride in Jordanian-Australian ties and reiterated the Arab Nation's appreciation of Australia's concern over the causes of justice and peace in the Middle East. His Majesty also expressed hope that Australia would continue its positive efforts in this respect. The King also wished the governor general continuing good health and happiness and the Australian people further progress and prosperity.

## King sends good wishes to India

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman congratulating him on the occasion of the anniversary of India's Republic Day. The King wished President Venkataraman and the Indian people further progress and prosperity.

## Turkey returns captured Iranians

SEMDINLI, Turkey (AP) — Turkey Monday returned to Iran 57 armed Iranians who were captured here two months ago on their way to Iraq, the independent Hurriyet news agency reported. The Iranians were driven to the border post in this southwestern township, where they were handed over to Iranian authorities, the dispatch said. The release was ordered by the Interior Ministry following negotiations between local officials from both countries, the agency said.

## Soviet team begins visit to Nevada

LAS VEGAS (R) — A team of Soviet scientists began an historic visit to Nevada's desert nuclear test site Monday for a week of tours and meetings. The Soviet visit to the test site is part of a superpower agreement aimed at resolving differences over verification of treaties on limiting nuclear tests.

## Sudan rebels claim downing MiG

NAIROBI (AP) — Sudanese rebels claimed Monday they shot down a MiG-23 fighter-bomber which the Khartoum government said crashed because of a technical failure. Radio SPLA, a clandestine radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, said its southern-based guerrillas last Saturday hit two MiGs lured into an air ambush by false information from a double agent. "The MiG-23 that was shot and immediately crashed was brought down by an SPLA defence crew," said the radio. "The second fighter plane was seen warbling towards Juba with a trail of smoke."

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## Israel continues policy of brutality against Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel showed no signs of change in its new policy of "might, power and beatings" against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Monday and dozens of Arabs were reported severely injured in beatings by Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories.

Israel also came under growing criticism from American Jewry Monday over its "iron-fist" policy.

Heavy rains appeared to have brought down the level of anti-occupation protests. However, demonstrations and clashes were reported from at least half a dozen towns in the occupied territories Monday.

In the village of Salfit, under curfew for much of last week, Palestinians firebombed an Israeli bus. No one was injured. Thousands of Palestinian workers travelled to work in Israel from the Gaza Strip as the army temporarily lifted a curfew on the teeming, volatile Jabalya camp. Troops used sledgehammers to force striking Gaza and West Bank merchants to open their shops.

Soldiers fired rubber bullets to disperse a demonstration by Palestinians in Qalandia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem. Most businesses there were closed for a second day.

On Sunday night, a bus was stoned outside the village of Abu

Gosh 32 kilometres west of Jerusalem, Israeli Radio reported. Police arrested three Arabs.

Arab protesters also stoned an Israeli-owned bank in Arab Jerusalem, smashing its front window, the radio said.

In Ramallah, residents said dozens of Palestinians had been beaten by soldiers in the last week behind a bloodstained wall near the town's main square.

In the town's hospital, a 20-year-old Palestinian said soldiers shot him in the hip with a rubber bullet Sunday, then beat him during a demonstration in the town centre.

In the next bed, a 27-year-old insurance agent lay unconscious. Doctors said he was an innocent bystander, shot in the abdomen with live ammunition as he passed the demonstration on his way to the bank.

Israeli Radio quoted two leftist legislators, Yossi Sarid and Dedy Zucker, as saying that more than 200 Gaza Arabs suffered broken bones during the last

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## Libya said set to join Maghreb pact soon

ALGIERS (R) — Libya looks set to join a North African regional alliance linking neighbours Tunisia and Algeria with Mauritania in a severe blow to U.S. efforts to keep Tripoli isolated.

Authoritative Algerian diplomatic sources told Reuters Libyan membership of the pact would be ratified at a special summit of the heads of government of all four countries, possibly in early March.

The move is the second Libyan success in the area within a month and will increase growing U.S. concern over Libya's comeback, diplomats say.

Tunisia agreed on Dec. 28 to restore full diplomatic relations with Libya. Ties had been broken two years previously after allegations that Libya tried to foment unrest against the Tunisian government.

"The United States has its interests, and we have ours. It is not in our interests to isolate Libya. It is our neighbour, we are condemned to work together," a high-ranking Algerian diplomat said.

Algeria, keen to offer Libya a substitute for its plan of full political union between the two, played an important role in the rapprochement with Tunisia.

Lingering Tunisian doubts over the wisdom of the move have also been laid to rest since then.

The new government of President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali which came to power last Novem-

ber is committed to improving relations with its neighbours, but wants Algerian assurances the pact would not be an anti-Moroccan grouping.

All the countries agree Moroccan membership is out of the question until the dispute in the Western Sahara, where its troops have for 12 years fought Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas for independence, is finally settled.

"Tunisia has accepted the arguments. It is now just a question of when we can get the leaders of the four countries together," the diplomat added.

As a concession to Libya, the summit would also set up a political committee to improve coordination and integration among the countries of the region.

Washington has watched with alarm as Libya has broken out of a diplomatic quarantine imposed since the U.S. air strike on Tripoli in April 1986.

Libyan membership of the existing tripartite pact crowns almost a year of intense diplomatic activity in the region, and will be presented as a major step towards realising the goal of a greater Maghreb.

The creation of a North African common market is a central feature of Algerian policy. President Chadli Benjedid argues the countries of the region are interdependent and together would have formidable muscle in trade negotiations.

## Libyan envoy killed in Lagos

LAGOS (R) — Libya's charge d'affaires in Nigeria was shot dead in Lagos Sunday, official sources said.

Details of his death were sketchy but the sources, who declined to be identified, said he was killed in the Mile Two area of the capital.

The charge d'affaires is named as Abu Bakar Kanna in the latest official list of diplomats in Lagos.

An unidentified man at the Libyan embassy, who said he was a local employee, said Monday that Kanna was the charge d'affaires and was dead, but would not elaborate.

A senior African diplomatic source said he had heard informally about the killing but was awaiting confirmation from Nigeria's External Affairs Ministry.

The official Nigerian sources said the minister of state at the ministry, Mamman Anka, would fly to Tripoli Tuesday in connection with the incident.

Anka would convey a message to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi from Nigerian President General Ibrahim Babangida, the sources added.

Police headquarters were handling the investigation but no spokesman was available.

Mile Two is a crowded district with a market and bus station and lies on the expressway from Lagos west to Cotonou, capital of the Benin Republic.

It is notorious as an area for armed robberies of cars caught up in traffic jams and there was some speculation that the motive for the killing could have been criminal.

## His Majesty, in talks with Baccouche, stresses need for Mideast and Gulf peace based on U.N. resolutions

## King receives Tunisian message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali dealing with bilateral relations and voicing Tunisia's keenness on further bolstering these relations and supporting His Majesty's efforts aimed at achieving Arab solidarity and boosting joint Arab action.

The message was delivered to the King by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, who arrived here earlier Monday on a three-day visit to Jordan. The audience was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Tunisian Ambassador in Amman Said Ibn Mustafa.

The King asked Baccouche to convey his greetings and best wishes to Ibn Ali, the Jordan

News Agency, Petra, said.

The King reviewed with Baccouche the outcome of the Nov. 8-11 Amman Arab summit and the Arab solidarity and unified Arab stand it achieved towards the region's issues, Petra said.

The King stressed that the current anti-occupation uprising in the occupied territories was clear evidence of the need for speeding up efforts for ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories through an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned including the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

"Jordan's endeavours, especially in light of the Amman summit resolutions, have won support by international forums, particularly the European Com-

munity (EC), the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)," His Majesty was quoted as saying by Petra.

The King added that these efforts were aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem through the international conference and in accordance with U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

On the Iran-Iraq war, the King emphasised the urgent need for exerting Arab and international efforts to end the conflict by enforcing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and exerting pressure on Iran to submit to the international will.

"Iran should realise that it will not win the war by continuing its aggression against Iraq," the King said.

## Security Council to meet Wednesday

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council will meet Wednesday to consider Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's report on the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the United Nations announced Monday.

In the report, issued last Friday, the secretary general recommended a concerted effort to persuade Israel to accept de jure (by right) the applicability of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in wartime.

He said also that Israel should "correct its practices" in order to comply fully with the convention.

In his report, based in part on a fact-finding mission to the strife-torn territories by Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding, Perez de Cuellar renewed the call for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

He said the underlying problem in the territories could only be resolved through a political settlement.

One council member told Reuters the debate beginning Wednesday would focus mainly on the immediate situation in the occupied territories, leaving until a later date a further debate on a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.

Council President Crispin Tickell of Britain told reporters all members wanted a "serious, constructive debate both on the short-term problems, which are very vivid in all our minds, but also the long-term problems and the desire to reach an equitable, long-term settlement."

Asked whether this week's debate would result in a resolution on the short-term issues, he replied: "We shall see. It hasn't yet been decided."

He added: "In some respects it's a little artificial to divide the debate into two. But I'm sure that some people will wish to talk more about one than of the other. What the resolution will cover will only be determined when we settle down to draft it."

If there were a second part to the debate, it would probably take place next month, he said. But this would depend on the character of this week's debate and resolution.

"I can't say we will deal with the short-term problems now and the long-term problems later because in many ways the solutions to the short-term problems lie in the long-term," he added.

He said he had received no word of any intended visit to the United Nations by foreign ministers who took part in an Arab League meeting in Tunis over the weekend on the situation in the occupied territories.

The Tunis meeting set up a seven-member committee comprising the foreign ministers of Jordan, Algeria, Iraq, Syria and Tunisia, as well as the Arab League Secretary General, Chadli Kibi, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's foreign affairs spokesman, Farouq Kaddoumi.

## Iraqi leader praises Amman summit, underlines need to preserve its spirit

By Mahmoud Al Kayed  
Al Ra'i Chief Editor

BAGHDAD — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has praised the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman as a unique opportunity for frank discussions and emphasised the need to preserve and respect the spirit of agreements reached at the gathering of Arab heads of state.

"The Amman summit was totally unlike any previous summit because in Amman the Arab leaders involved themselves in open and very useful dialogue essential for building strong inter-Arab relations," President Hussein Sunday told the editors of the three Jordanian Arabic dailies — Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab.

"The dialogue held in Amman was open and candid and helped the Arabs to place all questions in their right perspective with some leaders showing divergence of views on certain points," the



Saddam Hussein president said.

He said the Syrians and the other delegations to the summit accepted the final analysis of the problems plaguing the Arab Nation, and that was an encouraging development. But, he added, "we now hear reports of contacts and activities which indicate that some countries are returning to



His Majesty King Hussein Monday receives a message from Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali delivered by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche (Petra photo)

The King also voiced Jordan's keenness in boosting Jordanian-Tunisian relations in all fields, Petra said.

During the visit the Tunisian premier will discuss with Rifai

and senior officials ways of strengthening and promoting Jordanian-Tunisian relations in various fields.

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan urges increased support for Arabs under occupation

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan urged Arab countries Monday to step up their support for the Arab inhabitants of the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza and to extend meaningful support for Iraq in the face of Iran's aggression.

The call was made by the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Akef Al Fayed, in an address to the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting which opened in the Tunisian capital Monday.

In his address, Fayed referred to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to rally endeavours to help the Palestinians under Israeli rule.

He said that the APU meeting "is being held at a time when the Israeli authorities are escalating their repression and the Arab Palestinian people are maintaining their uprising against repression."

The uprising, he said, has drawn the support and backing for the Palestinian people from world nations and organisations which now support the convening of an international conference to find a lasting settlement to the Palestinian problem.

## Call for support for Iraq

Fayed called on Arab countries to intensify their efforts for ending the Gulf conflict and towards implementing of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 which aims at bringing about peace to the Gulf region.

Fayed also urged the Arabs to unify their ranks in confrontation of the Iranian expansionist aims in the Gulf region, and appealed to the United Nations to secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon.

## Ibn Ali opens session

The APU meeting was opened by Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali who also referred to urgent Arab issues and called for unity of ranks in the face of external dangers.

Ibn Ali referred to the major challenges and threats posed to the Arab Nation and said these warrant intensified efforts on the part of all Arab governments and parliamentarians to end inter-Arab differences.

The president praised the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November and said it expressed a unanimous Arab stand for dealing with the Middle East question and the Iran-Iraq war.

The resolutions of the summit should serve as guidelines for Arab parliamentarians in their endeavours at all regional and international levels, the president said.

Tunisia's former prime minister, Rashid Sfar, made a speech at the meeting, reviewing the current issues of the Arab World and calling on Arab parliamentarians to come up with constructive resolutions that can cement Arab ranks.

(Continued on page 3)

## W. Germany endorses Mubarak's proposal

BONN (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak won West German support for his new Middle East peace initiative Monday at the start of a whirlwind diplomatic tour.

Mubarak held four hours of talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsaecker in Bonn on a peace plan that he also will present to Britain, the United States, France, Italy and Morocco over the next 12 days.

Kohl told reporters after meeting Mubarak that the European Community (EC), currently chaired by West Germany, would encourage moves towards an international Middle East peace conference at its Feb. 11-12 summit in Brussels.

"I again assured (Mubarak) of my support for such a peace conference and I will put it on the agenda of the EC summit," the

(Continued on page 3)

## Peres and Shamir split over Egyptian initiative

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres split Monday on whether to endorse Egypt's new peace initiative and a moratorium on Jewish settlement building.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has called on Palestinians to observe a six-month ban on anti-Israel violence and asked Israel to freeze settlement building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for the same period. He said this would set the stage for an international conference.

"Shamir has not yet replied to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak," spokesman Avi Pazner told the AP in a telephone interview. "But he will tell him he does not accept the president's proposals."

Outlining his opposition to reporters, Shamir said: "An international conference will not serve the cause of peace. It will be a stage for anti-Israeli propaganda,

and not a framework for serious negotiations between the parties. It will be an attempt to dictate, to impose solutions."

But Peres, a political rival of Shamir, welcomed the thrust of Mubarak's call.

"I welcome the Mubarak initiative as a step in the right direction," Peres said in a statement issued by the foreign ministry. "The call for an immediate end to all violent activity is most positive."

But an official who demanded anonymity said Peres did not accept all points in Mubarak's plan.

For example, he opposed creating an international mechanism for supervising events in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and did not accept language referring to Palestinian "political rights."

Peres also noted few settlements had been built in recent

## Iraq says 253 Iranians killed in north

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday its forces had killed 253 enemy troops in fighting on the northern front of its war with Iran.

A military spokesman said that in the battles Sunday heavy fire drove back groups of Iranians who tried to advance on Iraqi positions.

Iraq has claimed its forces have killed or wounded thousands of Iraqi troops and seized mountain peaks in the Mawut area of the northern war zone over the last 10 days.

## Iraq reports raid in Gulf

Iraq also Monday said its warplanes attacked an unidentified ship off Iran's coast, the first reported Iraqi raid in the so-called "tanker war" since Saturday.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted a military spokesman as saying the jets scored "an accurate and effective hit... on a large maritime target" which usually means a tanker.

INA said all the plans returned safely to base.

## Anti-pollution talks

Delegates from both Iran and Iraq attended a seminar in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday on preventing pollution in the Gulf, where their attacks on merchant ships have threatened major oil spills.

Several raids on ships last year resulted in oil leaks, most recently when an Iranian gunboat strike on the Cypriot supertanker Pivrot on Dec. 12 led to a state of emergency being declared along the coast of Sharjah.

Kuwaiti delegate Abdul Rahman Awadi urged Gulf states to cooperate against pollution threats.



# France, Italy deny accord on Gulf minesweeping

PARIS (R) — The French Navy denied Monday that it had reached an accord with Britain and Italy to work jointly to sweep mines out of the Gulf.

Italy had earlier denied a Washington Post report that the three countries had agreed to coordinate operations and to keep at least five minesweepers on duty at any one time.

The report, published Sunday, said U.S. administration officials hoped the accord would blunt congressional criticism of the cost burden of U.S. operations in the Gulf.

"There is no agreement and the situation has not changed," a French Navy spokesman said. "The French Navy is acting for national interests."

The commanders of the Gulf fleets had been in contact since the operation began last September, but this was only to share information and avoid mishaps, the spokesman said.

Three French mine-clearing vessels began operating outside the Gulf in the Sea of Oman in mid-September, finding eight mines off the port of Khor Fakkan. The navy believes the area is now clear of mines.

One minehunter is still in or near the Gulf, while two minesweepers have withdrawn to Djibouti, according to the navy.

France withdrew from the integrated command of the North

Atlantic Treaty Organisation in 1966 and any suggestion it had agreed to action within an allied framework would be politically sensitive, especially in a presidential election year.

In Rome, an Italian Navy Ministry spokesman told Reuters: "There has been no agreement. The report has taken us by surprise. We cannot understand where it came from."

Italy sent three minesweepers, three frigates and two support vessels to the Gulf last September to protect Italian merchant shipping after an Iranian speedboat attack on an Italian freighter. It has now cut its presence to six ships.

Italy has always insisted the mission is exclusively to protect Italian ships and ruled out joint military action with other fleets. The Navy Ministry spokesman in Rome said a minesweeper, the Veste, and the support vessel Anteo were pulled out of the Gulf on Jan. 20 because of a reduced threat from mines but that the intended withdrawal of one frigate was a distant prospect.

French officials said the European allies exchanged information on the Gulf under the au-

spices of the Western European Union, a defence-oriented organisation which groups Belgium, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

The officials said Belgium, Britain and The Netherlands appeared to be coordinating most closely in the Gulf in view of the prospect of them reducing their naval strengths there.

**French minister in UAE**

Meanwhile a senior French envoy has arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to review trade prospects and underline France's commitment to help protect shipping in the Gulf. French embassy sources said Finance Minister Edouard Balladur would discuss ways to bolster trade and economic cooperation with the UAE leaders.

Balladur, who is also deputy prime minister, flew in from Saudi Arabia where he ruled out any reduction in the naval force which France maintains in the Gulf to escort merchant ships. He told reporters in Riyadh: "The action of France remains constant. We have taken a position on this issue...and we are determined to follow through." The French aircraft carrier Clemenceau and a small group of escort ships have been on station near the Gulf since last July.

## Austrian firm says arms may have been sent to Iran

VIENNA (R) — Austria's biggest company said Monday that its weapon manufacturing subsidiary might have made illegal arms exports to Iran.

Austrian authorities have for months been investigating charges that 140 cannons worth \$300 million were delivered by Voest-Alpine's Noricum subsidiary to Iran in the spring of 1985.

The charges were first made in the Austrian news magazine Basta.

Voest-Alpine General Director Herbert Lewinsky told Austrian radio the preliminary results of the company's own internal inquiry had "hardened the suspicion that there were direct Noricum weapons deals with Iran."

The state-owned concern had repeatedly denied any such deals. Austrian law forbids export of arms to warring nations and Iran has been at war with Iraq since 1980.

Lewinsky said the preliminary conclusions had been reached after the internal probe found a bond guaranteeing a weapons contract delivery. He said he did not know who signed the bond or was responsible for the deal.

## Text of Arab League Council resolution on occupied land

TUNIS (R) — Following are extracts from the final resolution of an emergency Arab League meeting which ended on Sunday (translated from the official French version).

The council...

"After having examined the grave situation prevailing in the occupied Arab territories, and developments linked to the heroic uprising of the Palestinian Arab people, in the territories, as well as the massacres, persecutions and repressive measures perpetrated against them by the Israeli war machine, in violation of all international charters and conventions...

"While expressing its total support for the insurrection of the Arab Palestinian people, its resistance and the courageous struggle it is leading against Zionist arbitrariness which aims at the existence of even its children, its places of worship and sanctuary...

"In order to enable the Palestinian people to pursue its

insurrection and exercise its legitimate right to combat terrorism and Zionist violence, with the view of putting an end to occupation and recuperating its land and its inalienable national rights to return to its homeland...

Agrees to...

"Condemn the crimes of Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people in struggle in whatever form they take, be it: Assassinations, banishments, persecutions, blockades of camps, denial of water to and starvation of refugees and prevention of medical supplies, aggressions against holy places, and in particular the Al Aqsa Mosque, illegal destruction of homes, grabbing land and installing settlements...

"Call on the states of the world to put pressure on the (Israeli) authorities in order to put an end to their repressive and oppressive actions against the valiant Palestinian people, and to impose effective sanctions against these authorities that are guilty of crimes

directed against all humanity and threatening international security and peace...

"Continue to support materially and politically the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people, in order to permit it to continue its fight with the same determination...

"Guarantee the means of resistance and furnish it with financial assistance for the entire period of the uprising this assistance will be delivered in collaboration with the PLO...

"Begin an intensive press campaign at world level in order to increase the isolation of Israel on the international scene, condemn its behaviour, denounce its acts of extermination, affirm the right of the Palestinian people to defend its homeland and its legitimate national rights, and to counter Israeli media ploys aimed at dividing the Palestinian people...

"Set up a committee of foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq and the president of the political

commission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the secretary-general of the Arab League which will be charged with drawing up a plan of common Arab action...

"Call on the (United Nations) Security Council to meet and assume its responsibilities concerning the adoption of resolutions and proper measures to put an end to the Israeli occupation of all Palestinian territories...

"Call on Security Council to assume fully and entirely its responsibilities with regard to the violations by Israel of the Fourth Geneva Convention, in the Palestinian and occupied Arab territories...

"Charge the secretary-general of the Arab League to gather information on the grave violations perpetrated by Israel in the occupied territories, to follow the development of these violations which constitute not so much crimes of war as crimes against humanity...

## Pressure mounts on West to pull back Gulf minesweepers

By Stephen Jukes  
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Pressure is mounting on Western governments to cut costs of their Gulf naval forces by withdrawing minesweepers and the indications are that some will leave soon.

The waterway has been declared free of mines. Red and yellow warning buoys have been plucked from the seafloor and the crews of about 20 Western and Soviet minehunters have been enjoying home leave.

But Western military sources in the region said decisions to pull out the minesweepers would not be taken lightly for fear of weakening political support for Gulf Arab states which feel threatened by Iran.

A complete withdrawal would appear to be out of the question for purely tactical reasons, they said.

"As soon as you drop your guard or start to send vessels home, Iran will push a few new mines over the side," said one Western naval officer. "The threat will never go away."

Now all minefields have been swept, military planners are examining whether increased co-ordination among Western navies can cut costs and allow some vessels to leave.

The sources said U.S., British, Dutch, Belgian, Italian and French forces might be pared

back in coming months, leaving a core of specialised vessels to form a military and political deterrent to any new mine-laying by Iran. Ideally, Western nations would like that deterrent to be backed up more strongly by the small navies of the Gulf states which have lacked modern minesweeping expertise.

Military sources said Saudi Arabia was now in the market for as many as eight specialised vessels in a deal worth up to \$550 million. The order appeared to have taken priority over Riyadh's earlier ambitions to buy eight submarines.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

The mine threat first made headlines as a new phase of the Iran-Iraq war last July when the Kuwaiti supertanker Bridgeton was holed on its maiden voyage under U.S. warship protection.

More mines, which the West says were planted by Iran, were discovered and small vessels proved vulnerable. Six seamen were killed in August when their supply boat was blown to pieces.

But only a very few mines have been found since November and the two major danger zones to shipping, in the central Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, have been declared clear.

A cut in the number of foreign minesweepers which rushed to the Gulf to deal with the threat is

already taking shape:

— U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, on a tour of U.S. warships and Gulf states earlier this month, prepared the ground for pulling out minehunting helicopters and their carrier, the Okinawa, diplomatic sources said. Ocean-going vessels sweeping northern Gulf seaways were likely to stay.

— British, Dutch and Belgian vessels worked in close co-ordination to sweep a minefield in the central Gulf last year, but some may soon leave.

In London, a Defence Ministry spokesman declined comment on reports in the Times and Guardian newspapers on Thursday that the nations would each halve their forces, leaving Britain with two minesweepers and Belgium and the Netherlands with one each.

— Italy's defence ministry sources in Rome said the minesweeper Veste and support vessel Anteo were pulled out of the Gulf.

— France has redeployed its force, keeping one minehunter in the immediate Gulf region and pulling back two minesweepers to near Djibouti in the Gulf of Aden.

But Minister of State for Economy Edouard Balladur, who started a Middle East tour, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) there could be no question of reducing France's naval force as long as its merchant ships

came under threat.

— The Soviet Union is thought to maintain a constant force of three minesweepers in the Gulf region and there are no indications of any change, military sources said.

One of the three called on U.S. naval help to trace a mine on Jan. 5. Despite the unusual display of co-operation, the Soviet vessel eventually found and detonated the mine itself.

While politicians and admirals have been weighing the consequences of a cutback, minesweeper crews have been enjoying port calls in some of the Gulf states or taking home leave over Christmas and New Year.

Asked in Bahrain this week if the four British minesweepers operated continuously, Commander Bob Money of the frigate Scylla said: "It's difficult for us at the moment, to be honest, to find full employment for the minesweepers because the known minefields have been cleared."

The four British vessels have been making "route surveys" — mapping the seabed — in approaches to Gulf ports in case new mines should be planted.

Navy commanders and merchant seamen alike express the fear that Iran will lay new mines as soon as the minesweepers start the six-week trip back through the Red Sea to northern Europe.

Money said: "It might be seen to be an invitation... for mining to take place."

## Relief teams begin work on camps in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Workers with bulldozers have started clearing two battered refugee camps in Beirut after a three-year siege and Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia have stopped blockading a third Lebanese camp.

Teams from the Hariri Foundation — a charity run by Rafik Hariri, a businessman friend of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia — began clearing rubble from the Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps in mainly Muslim west Beirut Sunday.

Both camps were badly damaged during the sieges by Amal, Lebanon's largest Muslim militia. It withdrew from positions around the two camps Wednesday after Amal chief Nabih Berri announced an end to the blockades.

In the port town of Tyre 80 kilometres south of Beirut, Amal militiamen in olive-green fatigues ended a 14-month-old siege of Rashidiyeh Camp, home for some 17,000 Palestinians.

Witnesses said scores of Palestinian women, children and men ventured out of the camp for the first time since October 1986. Palestinian women, children and men ventured out of the camp for the first time since October 1986.

Palestinians and Amal sources said Lebanese police were expected to take up positions in and around Rashidiyeh to ensure the safety and movement of the inhabitants.

Berri announced on Jan. 16 that his fighters would lift the sieges as a tribute to Palestinian demonstrators in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Shi'ite-Palestinian war has ended forever," Berri said Saturday.

## Australia grants \$600,000 to help UNRWA school

AMMAN (J.T.) — Australia is to contribute a sum of \$600,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) over the coming two years to help the agency build a girls school on the occupied West Bank, the agency said Monday.

The school, to be built near Bethlehem, will provide education to children from a Palestine refugee camp near Sour Baher. UNRWA said that work on the school would begin in April and should be open for students at the

beginning of the 1989-1990 scholastic year.

Last year, Australia made a \$850,000 contribution to UNRWA.

Sweden will offer the agency \$1 million to improve the situation at UNRWA schools in the occupied Gaza Strip. The schools, which were built by UNRWA in the late 1950s, require urgent restoration, it said. Sweden last year contributed a sum of \$11.6 million to UNRWA's fiscal budget.

## EC gives additional aid to occupied territories

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) said Monday it was stepping up aid to Palestinians in Israeli occupied territories in response to an appeal by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The EC Commission said in a statement it had agreed an urgent payment of 185,000 European Currency Units (\$228,000) to buy and distribute food, in particular for children.

It said it had also agreed urgent food aid of 500 tonnes of cereals

and 55 tonnes of milk powder, worth 250,000 ECUs (\$307,000). The Community had already agreed aid of 200,000 ECUs (\$246,000) at the end of December after an earlier UNRWA appeal.

This donation is part of an on-going European Community development aid programme in favour of the Palestinian people. Community aid channelled through UNRWA amounted to JD 15 million in 1987 and JD 13.5 million in 1986.

## Czechs call for international Mideast peace conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The stubborn Israeli position and its rejection of convening an international peace conference to solve the Middle East question aggravates the situation in the occupied Arab territories, a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry has said.

The statement circulated by the Czechoslovakian embassy in Amman said that the current events in the occupied Arab territories

"are a clear gesture of the Palestinian people's desire to see an end to the 20 years of Israeli occupation of the Arab land and for restoring their legitimate rights."

The statement added that Israeli intransigence has aggravated the situation in the occupied territories and affected negatively the international relations. "Therefore an urgent political solution should be found lest the situation further deteriorates."

## Prosecutor sums up argument in trial of Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli prosecutor began his summing up Monday at the trial of alleged Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk by recalling the horrors of Treblinka Camp.

Prosecutor Michael Shaked began his closing argument 11 months after the trial began of Demjanjuk, 67, a retired U.S. car worker accused of being the brutal guard "Ivan the Terrible" at the camp in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

The bulky Demjanjuk sat impassively — as he has throughout — in the converted cinema packed with Israelis anxious to catch a glimpse of Israel's first Nazi war crimes trial since the hanging of mass murderer Adolf Eichmann in 1962.

Court observers expect the three-judge court to issue a verdict in March or April after summations of at least two weeks.

In his summation, Shaked traced the history of Treblinka from the ghettos of Eastern Europe to the train boxes that herded unsuspecting people to the camp where Demjanjuk is accused of operating the gas chambers that asphyxiated them.

## Thatcher to visit Turkey

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will pay her first official visit to Turkey on April 6-8, her office said Monday.

### TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	21:05	Evening Show Contd.
Tel. 73111-14	22:00	News Summary
	22:45	Evening Show Continued
	23:00	News Summary
	23:05	Evening Show Continued
	24:00	Close Down
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30	15:30	Koran
15:50	15:50	Programme review
16:00	16:00	Children's programmes
16:10	16:10	World Sports Sprint
17:20	17:20	In Search of the Past
17:45	17:45	Local programme
18:15	18:15	Basketball
19:00	19:00	Movie from Oman
19:15	19:15	Local programme
19:45	19:45	Programme review and varieties
20:00	20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	20:30	Arabic World News 20:30
21:30	21:30	Cultural programme
22:00	22:00	Varities programme
23:00	23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	23:10	Programme contd.
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:00	18:00	Deux du conduit
19:00	19:00	News in French
19:15	19:15	French varieties: Un Djeu de plus
19:30	19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	19:45	A special programme
20:00	20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	20:30	Martin Luther King
21:30	21:30	Executive Street
22:00	22:00	News in English
22:30	22:30	The Equalizer
23:10	23:10	Three's Company

PROGRAMME TWO		Art of Conductor 11:00 World News
18:00	Déjà du monde	11:00 British Press Review 11:15 Good
18:05	News in French	Books 11:30 Financial News; Sports
19:15	French varieties: UA DB de plus	Roundup 11:45 World News 12:00
19:30	News in Hebrew	12:00 News Summary: Discovery 12:25
19:45	A special programme	A Letter from Scotland 12:30 Citizens
20:00	News in Arabic	12:30 World News 13:00 News About
20:30	Martin Luther King	the World 13:00 Waspide 13:30 Book
21:30	Executive Steve	Choice 13:30 Drama Serial 14:00
22:00	News in English	Radio Newsday 14:15 Multitrack 1:1
22:00	The Equalizer	Top 20 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00
22:15	Three's Company	World News 15:00 24 Hours: News

### WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
★ A painting exhibition by German artist Ingoborg Grosjean at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).	
★ An exhibition about medical research in France at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 28).	
★ Plastic art exhibition by Marwan Allan at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Jan. 31).	
LECTURES	
★ Dr. Herwig Bartels, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Amman, will present a lecture entitled "Antiquities and related archaeological evidences" at 8:00 p.m. today (Tuesday) at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR).	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 62450.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luwibdeh, Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, Tel. 661757.	
Terrassanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabbal Luwibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.	
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, Tel. 623363, chaplain's residence, Tel. 601359.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771351.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.	
Anglican International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 675334.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 a.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.	
Rabbi's Congregation, (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Interdenominational-cum-ecumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 82605.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821244.	

ABC NEWS	
★ A selection of the latest news from the United States taped from the ABC Evening News of the previous week at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	

CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre — Tel. 6610267	
American Centre — 644171	
American Council Library — 641520	
British Council — 6361478	
French Cultural Centre — 637009	
Goethe Institute — 641955	
Soviet Cultural Centre — 640203	
Spanish Cultural Centre — 634049	
Turkish Cultural Centre — 637111	
Y.W.C.A. — 661956	
Hussein Youth City — 6617816	
Y.W.M.C.A. — 642251	
Amman Municipal Library — 637111	
Univ. of Jordan Library — 843555	

MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 081 53300-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)	
09:15 London (RJ)	
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)	
09:30 Cairo (RJ)	
09:55 Jeddah (RJ)	
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)	
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
10:10 New York (RJ)	
10:10 Larnaca (RJ)	
10:10 Paris, Brussels (RJ)	
10:10 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)	
10:15 Istanbul (RJ)	
10:40 Tripoli (RJ)	
10:45 Rome (RJ)	

information is supplied by Royal	15:45 .....	Buckfast (RO)
airline (RJ) information depart-	15:45 .....	Kuwait (LN)
ment at the Queen Alia International	16:40 .....	Riyadh (SV)
port Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it	17:20 .....	Cairo (MS)
is always verified.	18:30 .....	Damascus (AZ)
	20:15 .....	Dubai (EK)



## Rawabdeh sends reply of thanks to King

AMMAN (J.T.) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Monday sent a message to His Majesty King Hussein expressing gratitude to the King for his appreciation of the services and efforts of the Greater Amman Municipality and its employees.

The King sent a message of appreciation for the municipality's efforts to Rawabdeh on Jan. 5.

In his reply, Rawabdeh said that the municipality pledged to work relentlessly and with all its power to win the confidence of King Hussein and Jordanian citizens.

On Jan. 19, Rawabdeh was presented with the Al Nahda Medal of the First Order in appreciation of the municipality's excellent performance. The King presented Rawabdeh with the medal and voiced satisfaction and happiness with the municipality's achievements.

## Jordan, Iraq to increase agricultural cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in agricultural production and marketing was discussed here by a delegation from the Iraqi Farmers Association and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

The two sides also discussed cooperation between cooperatives in Iraq and Jordan, particularly the exchange of expertise and officials' visits.

The two organisations agreed that the JCO would market Iraqi produce in the Kingdom, and on encouraged the work of cooperatives in both countries.

The talks were conducted by JCO Director-General Mervid Al Tal and the Iraqi Farmers Association President Khaled Al Bader.

Bader said in a statement after the meeting that Iraq appreciated Jordan's support in countering Iran's aggression. He also said that his talks with the JCO officials were successful and fruitful.

## ARC: JD 6m spent on railroad improvements

MAAN (Petra) — The Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) last year spent JD 6 million on renovating 64 kilometres of railroad in the south, and transported 2.6 million tonnes of phosphates from mines in the south to Aqaba for export, according to the ARC Director-General Mardi Qattamin.

Qattamin said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that ARC's plans for this year include the implementation of the second phase of a project to replace 116 kilometres of railroad at a cost of JD 11 million.

The upgrading of the railroad is designed to allow ARC to transport more phosphates to Aqaba, Qattamin said. He said by 1990 ARC expects to transport four million tonnes of phosphates annually.

This year, ARC is expected to transport only three million tonnes, only 400,000 tonnes more than last year.

ARC is presently building workshops in Aqaba at a cost of JD 1.5 million to carry out maintenance on its locomotives and other railway equipment, Qattamin added.

In order to increase its operations, the company last year purchased 90 trucks at a cost of JD 1.6 million, according to the ARC director.

He said that ARC is currently cooperating with local and foreign organisations in providing training to its employees.

## Hmoud stresses government backing of agricultural sector

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud Monday stressed the government's policy of supporting and subsidising the agricultural sector.

Speaking to farmers during a visit to Ghor Al Safi in the Jordan Valley, the minister said that boosting the agricultural sector was one of the government's top priorities.

Hmoud said the government was planning to reschedule farmers' loans to public and private organisations, thus facilitating repayment procedures for the debtors.

The minister told the farmers that horizontal and vertical agricultural expansion through irrigation projects and application of up-to-the-minute scientific procedures in agriculture had contributed to high productivity, which resulted in high profits for farmers.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Prince Mohammad visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday paid a visit to the Armed Forces General Headquarters during which he conferred with the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

### Cardiologists to hold conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society of Cardiologists will be holding its first conference here in October. The founding of the Pan-Arab Cardiac Society will also be officially declared during the conference, according to Director of the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services Daoud Hananiya. Hananiya recently returned from Dubai where he headed Jordan's delegation to the Third Pan-Arab Conference on Pacing and Cardiac Electrophysiology.

## Israel continues brutality

(Continued from page 1)

several days as a result of beatings.

"The policy of baton is deterring in the short run but creates hate in the long run," the two said in a report they planned to present to the government and the parliament Monday.

Three U.S. citizens filed complaints with the U.S. consulate in Arab Jerusalem about being beaten by Israeli troops, said consulate spokesman David Good.

Four Palestinian activists facing deportation dropped their appeals to Israel's supreme court, clearing the way for their expulsion.

"They feel they will not obtain justice from an Israeli court," said Faysal Abu Rahme, a Gazan attorney. "They said international public opinion has already decided that deportation is illegal and we'd hate to see it legalised in court."

Four other Palestinians were expelled to Lebanon Jan. 13 amid sharp criticism over the legality of such action.

The chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee, Abba Eban, made a scathing attack on the beatings policy, reports said.

"If there are ministers or members of parliament who are enthu-

## Arab panel on Palestinian affairs decides on assistance to refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The meeting of countries hosting Palestinian refugees just concluded in Tunis decided on measures for providing assistance to the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and improving the living conditions of refugee camp residents, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani announced here Monday.

Qatanani, who led the Jordanian delegation to the five-day meeting held at the Arab League headquarters said that he presented a detailed report on the present situation in the occupied territory, and the consequences of Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinians.

Along with Qatanani's report, a number of memoranda pertaining to the Palestinian people's affairs were reviewed at the meeting attended by delegates from Syria, Lebanon, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Arab League and the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO), in addition to Jordan.

Qatanani said that the meeting discussed the plight of unemployed graduates of universities in the occupied territories and recommendations to deal with the problem, the question of the Jerusalem District Electricity



Ahmad Qatanani (ALESCO), in addition to Jordan.

Company (JDEC) whose assets were seized by the Israeli authorities; Israeli settlement programmes; confiscation of Arab-owned land; and Arab countries' cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

He said that delegates also reviewed the situation in the refugee camps, UNRWA's report on the condition of refugees and UNRWA's annual budget.

Qatanani's report included details about Israel's plans to draw water from the occupied territories, and a study on Israel's methods for introducing changes in the demographic situation in the Arab land.

Qatanani said that the meeting recommended that Arab countries continue to present the Palestinian case to the United Nations, and urged Arab countries to increase their annual contributions to the UNRWA's annual budget.

According to Qatanani, the Arab delegations decided to hold their next meeting in July 1988.

## Rally expresses solidarity with Palestinian people in rebellion

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Speakers at a lecture entitled "The uprising in the occupied territories" agreed that the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories had brought about new realities in the Middle East region.

With international attention focusing on a united Palestinian people fighting for the right of return and self-determination, the Arab World must provide both financial and moral support to the inhabitants of the occupied lands, and must urge the United States to pressure Israel to stop the bloodshed and to find a political solution, they said Sunday.

Over 500 people packed into the Professional Associations complex to hear the lecture, which was part of the week in solidarity with the uprising organised by the association's social committee.

Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd, prominent Palestinian lawyer Ibrahim Bakr called on Arab states to impose a political and economic boycott of the U.S. as long as the U.S. administration continues its unrestrained support for Israel. "Political leadership that the Arabs give to the Palestinians is not support as long as the Arab countries continue supporting the U.S.," Bakr said. He considers the U.S. to be "the only backer of the Israeli enemy" with its strategic alliance with Israel and its ambiguous stand on the Palestinian uprising. "Only if the Arabs take a solid position against the U.S. are they truly supporting the uprising," Bakr said.

The ongoing seven weeks of violence in the occupied territories termed by Bakr as a "popular Palestinian revolution" has given substance to the two Palestinian slogans: "right of return" and "right to self-determination."

"Palestinians have shown the international political leadership that there are Palestinians on

He believes that the Zionist policies of deportation and settlement and other policies of repression have proved futile. "These policies won't work with a people that fights and resists... ultimately they will be victorious."

Zionist policies and the situation in the occupied territories will dominate the Israeli elections, "adding to the polarisation in the Israeli government," Bakr said. Odeh added that the differences within the Israeli government would explode and create a new force to deal with the latest development: "A lot of Israeli officials have been saying that the situation in the occupied territories is complicated and difficult, and that the solution must be political, regardless of what Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir say," she said. Odeh cited the demonstration of 50,000 Israelis in Tel Aviv as an example of the new force of dissent.

The Palestinians will continue struggling on the widest popular level until a solution is found, according to Bakr. "This uprising is the cornerstone for future uprisings which will be more powerful and deeper."

President of the Jordan Pharmacists Association Tayseer Al Himsi said that the Palestinian people had reiterated that they will not accept anything short of "having their own democratic state on all the land of Palestine."

Himsi believes that the Palestinian people will achieve their aims, as "history has shown that the will of the people will ultimately lead to victory." He pointed to the lesson learned from the recent Palestinian steadfastness: "The Israelis will not be able to destroy the strength of the Palestinians' faith in the justice of their cause. The weapon for their victory is unity and solidarity."

He appealed to Arabs and all peace-loving nations, headed by the Soviet Union, to support the Palestinian uprising and to take a strong stand on ending the bloodshed.

## King receives Tunisian message

(Continued from page 1)

Baccouche flew from Damascus, where he had four hours of talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Baccouche, making the first visit to Syria by a Tunisian prime minister for 17 years, said they had agreed on the need to foster Arab unity.

"I felt President Assad's keen interest to see Arabs united and to abandon anything which might disunite them because Arab unity will certainly be achieved and the victory of Arabs will come in the end," Baccouche told reporters in Damascus.

Upon arrival in Amman, Baccouche told reporters: "We want to inform Jordanian officials about developments in Tunisia and other Maghreb countries."

He said Jordanian-Tunisian ties were "exceptionally good due to our shared political outlook and the activities of the private sector in both countries."

He said his tour of Arab capitals was aimed at improving Tunisia's relations with its fellow Arab states and to assure them of Tunisian efforts for Arab unity.

He also said it was to "inform Arab leaders about the situation in Tunisia after the changes which took place on the 7th of last November," a reference to the overthrow of Habib Bourguiba by Ibn Ali, then prime minister.

## Peres and Shamir split

(Continued from page 1)

The daily Hadashot reported that Shamir sent Rubenstein to Washington to counter Mubarak's new initiative.

Pazner denied the report and said Rubenstein was there on bilateral matters and to prepare Shamir's upcoming visit to the United States in March.

Peres was angry at Shamir's decision to send Rubenstein to Washington and his office said the move was aimed at countering a visit to the U.S. last week by the foreign ministry director general, Yossi Beilin, Israel Television said.

Meanwhile, Israel TV said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz instructed his U.N. delegation to oppose Soviet calls for a U.N.-sponsored international conference on the Middle East.

## Bonn endorses Mubarak plan

(Continued from page 1)

settling the Middle East conflict.

"The only option toward the stabilisation of the situation is a peace conference," he told reporters before departing for London.

Mubarak called for an end to violence in the Middle East, but did not directly mention the protests that have wracked the Israeli-occupied territories for the past seven weeks.

"It is only through peace that we can raise our living standards, and make for better lives for Israelis as well as Arabs," the Egyptian leader said.

"War and violence do not lie in the interests of the affected people," he added. "They mean an intensification of hatred."

The West German president issued a statement praising Mubarak as an "irreplaceable factor" in the effort for peace in the Middle East.

Western diplomats said Mubarak was likely to get a positive reception on his tour because of growing international alarm over the Palestinian protests in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank coupled with Egypt's renewed formal links with Arab states.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher held talks in Israel over the weekend and went to Brussels Monday to discuss the results with EC colleagues.

Kohl's office, in a statement issued after Mubarak's departure, said the two leaders also discussed the Iran-Iraq war.

## Senate approves draft law on practising veterinary medicine; penal code amendments

By Nermeen Murad  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) discussed and approved several draft laws referred to them by the Lower House during Monday's session in which Prime Minister Zaid Rifai was sworn in as Senate member.

The Senate approved the Practising Veterinary Medicine Draft Law after debating a clause in the law which stipulates that the minister of agriculture is allowed a period of 60 days to revoke a veterinarian's licence after it is approved by the Jordan Veterinarians Association (JVA). Several senators called for leaving the revocation period undetermined, in case it was discovered after that period that the veterinarian's credentials and degrees were forged.

In support of the 60-day limit, Senator Hassan Al Kayed said: "A veterinarian wants to provide

a public service, and should not be detained from fulfilling that service." He added that veterinarians' credentials are usually in order, and that it is very "rare" for these papers to be forged.

According to JVA President Dr. Abdul Fattah Al Keilani, "60 days is an accepted period of time for the minister to take his decision." He said that in the case of forgery, the doctor in question would be subject to the penal code and the association's laws.

The Senate also discussed the amendments to the penal code approved by the Lower House on Jan. 12, under which people con-

## Hamzeh takes part in London international conference on AIDS

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh left for London Monday to take part in an international conference on AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).

The three-day conference aims to design a worldwide strategy to prevent the spread of AIDS through providing health education and reporting new AIDS cases to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The conference, organised by the WHO and the British government, will review the WHO health awareness programmes and the organisation of an educational exhibition on AIDS in Jordan.

Last October, the Health Ministry reported the discovery of 12 cases of AIDS in Jordan, eight of whom were Jordanians. And earlier this month, the

ministry reported the death of a Jordanian citizen who had been receiving medical treatment for the AIDS in Amman. The death of this victim raised to three the number of Jordanians to die of AIDS in 1987.

The Health Ministry has announced that measures are being taken to protect the public from the disease, such as screening all vaccines and blood plasma coming into the Kingdom, testing blood before transfusion and increasing public awareness of the disease.

The three victims who died in Jordan were reportedly contracted the disease through blood transfusions abroad.

Head of the Communicable Diseases Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Hani Shammout said in an interview

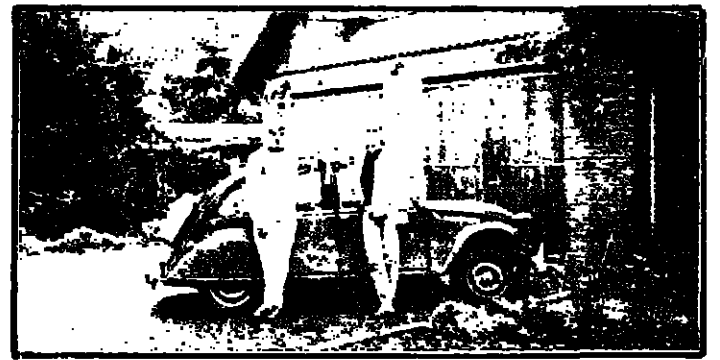
## Dutch adventurers seek closer look at Arab culture

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Their friends in Holland bet them that they wouldn't make it to Syria or Egypt in their little Citroen. But Bob Endert, 25, and Rick Crum, 21, have already made it to Syria, and are on their way to Egypt after ending their visit to Jordan.

The two Dutch economics students and freelance journalists have successfully driven their small French car through six European countries and Syria. But, for them, the tough part has not even begun: After leaving Egypt, they plan to travel through Sudan, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Algeria and Morocco.

Bob and Rick thought of doing this route just over a year ago, and after saving up money from work, they decided to hit the road. Citroen gave them free spare parts, but all other expenses come from their own pockets. They told the Jordan Times that they had always wanted to see the Middle East since they hear about it in the news every day, and were curious to experience it for themselves. In particular, they wanted to experience cultures that "are so different from our own."



Dutch adventurers Bob Endert and Rick Crum in Holland before beginning their journey.

"It's very interesting to see that the Arabs are so different from each other. We always thought that all Arabs are basically the same — mentality, looks, character and so on. But the Syrians, for example, are so different from the Jordanians; and the bedouin are so different from the city people," Bob noted.

The two young men are amazed at Arab hospitality and impressed with the "modernisation" of Syria and Jordan. "We thought that the society was so conservative that all the women wore veils in this part of the world," Bob commented.

Bob and Rick have their sleeping bags and tent if they find nowhere else to sleep. But,

## Iraqi leader praises Amman summit

(Continued from page 1)

and is involved in a war for defending its rights and its land," the president said. "Any other interpretation of the situation can only come from those weak people influenced by illusions."

Referring to the situation on the war front, he said Iranian forces were trying to carry out "small attacks here and there, just to prove that they exist and they are determined to fight."

He said it was known that "some Kurds were cooperating with the Iranians in the north but the majority of them are loyal to Iraq and its people and many of them are fighting alongside the Iraqi army."

"In general, the Iraqi side at the front is stronger than at any time in the past and the Iraqis are determined to defend their homeland," the president said. "The on-going battles here and there continue to expose the lies and the fabrications of the Iranian enemy," he said.

**Iraq-Jordan relations**

The Iraqi leader described his country's relations with Jordan, as "strong, excellent and brotherly."

"What the leaders of the Gulf states say is that the Iranians constitute a danger to all Arabs, and for this reason they support Iraq."

Hussein said the concept of joint national stand within the Arab World "has not yet materialised" and that he was looking forward to the day "when all Arabs will rush to the aid of one another in the event of any external danger on any one of them."

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources

invites all concerned to attend a seminar entitled: "The Future of Electric Power and Solar Energy Production" by Professor I. Bohn

Today, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1988 at 5 p.m. at the Jordan Electricity Authority.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources



# Jordan Times

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## Arabs of Palestine, unite

THE decision of Abdul Wahab Darawsheh, the Israeli Arab member of the Knesset, to quit the Labour Party and form an independent Arab party is among the most far-reaching results of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Darawsheh has attributed his decision to quit the ranks of the Labour Party to the shameful way the party has handled the uprising. Obviously, he had in mind, most of all, the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, whose iron-fist policy in the occupied Arab territories drew harsh criticism from the four corners of the world, including the Israeli Peace Now movement.

What is outstanding about such a bold step by Darawsheh, and through him the Palestinians of Galilee, is that it purports to seek a stronger political voice for the Arabs of Israel, and to make them a political force to reckon with. It is a well known fact that there are over 350,000 Arab voters in Israel, whose electoral power is scattered throughout the Israeli political spectrum. They lack cohesion and effectiveness, and often are taken for granted, or, worse, for a ride, by Israeli political parties. When the Arabs of Israel have access to an independent political party, such a party will surely have a key place in any coalition government in Israel. It will have the power to make or break many Israeli governments, as Israeli splinter parties have done for years. At face value, an independent Arab political party may weaken the Labour Party, which draws considerable political support from Arab voters. On balance, however, an independent Arab party can strengthen the forces within Israel that are genuinely committed to ending the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to striking an honourable and durable peace with the Arabs. An independent Arab party also would keep close watch on the Labour Party, which is ostensibly committed to the international peace conference idea, yet behaves in a manner repugnant to the spirit of such a conference. The Labour Party is also beset by many internal quarrels, with the forces of Rabin trying to outflank the supporters of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shimon Peres. The decision to form an independent Arab political party in Israel has much merit, particularly in an era when Palestinians need to have greater impact upon domestic politics in Israel.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: League calls on U.N.

THE Arab League council has ended a two-day discussion of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's repressive measures against the Arab people. The council's main result was in the form of a call on the U.N. Security Council to shoulder its responsibility towards the situation in the Arab land and also Israel's defiance of the will of the international community and the international principles and laws. The Arab uprising which has swept all of occupied Palestine opened up a new chance for the international community to see the truth and the facts about the situation in the Israeli-held Arab land. The uprising and Israel's response reminded the world of South Africa's rulers and their treatment of the black population under their rule. The U.N. Security Council which has condemned Israel's practices should now take sanctions against the Jewish state and force it to succumb to the will of the international community, not to leave its resolutions unimplemented and no more than ink and paper. The Arab League which met at foreign minister level has decided to form a committee to follow up with the Security Council the question of imposing sanctions and implementing U.N. resolutions. The Arabs' long experience with Israel has shown that the Jewish state will go on violating international principles as long as it continues to receive backing from certain powers and escape Security Council sanctions.

### Al Dustour: League forms committee

THE Arab League council has formed a committee to work out a pan-Arab strategy aimed at implementing resolutions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This was a pan-Arab decision designed to help regain Arab rights and support the Palestinian people's uprising. The Arab League council which also condemned Israel's measures against the Arab people reflected the feelings of all Arab masses everywhere. But it should be said that all appeals to the U.N. Security Council and all condemnations of Israel's practices will do the Arabs nothing unless they are backed by action and practical, concrete steps that can really support the Arab people under Israel's rule and alleviate their sufferings. We look to the Arab League and the committee's future moves with hope, and we look forward to practical action on the part of the U.N. Security Council for the implementation of its resolutions. The current uprising should be given all the support and backing, and the Arabs now have all the opportunities for following up measures and intensifying contacts at all levels to see an end to the sufferings of the Arab people.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan rallies support for uprising

THE uprising of the Arab people in the occupied territories acquired the interest of all world governments and drew support from all peace loving people. Jordan, for its part, has intensified its contacts and consultations with Arab and foreign countries to put an end to Israel's repressive measures and provide help to the Arab people of Palestine. Jordan which is keen on rallying all possible support for the Arab people under Israel's rule is striving to enable the Arab Nation, the international community and all peace loving people of the world to put an end to Israel's intransigence and its rejection of peace. Jordan's efforts are now focusing on convening the proposed international conference that would bring about real peace. For this reason, Jordan has been prompt in expressing support for the Soviet proposal, calling for a Security Council meeting to prepare for the conference. Jordan's speech delivered at the Arab League meeting also underlines this country's keenness on the attainment of peace and bringing justice to the occupied land.

## Uprising sparks thaw in Amal-Palestinian ties

By Samia Nakhoul  
Reuter

BEIRUT — Lebanon's bitter "camps war," in which 2,500 people were killed in battles between the country's two most powerful factions, finally ended on Jan. 24 as a result of the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories.

"The Shi'ite-Palestinian war has ended forever," declared Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia which had fought for three years to curb the military power of Palestinian fighters.

Bearded Amal fighters in olive-green fatigues reopened the last Palestinian camp on Jan. 24. They packed their belongings and moved away from Rashidiyeh near the southern town of Tyre, as they had left two besieged Beirut camps a week earlier.

"The uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has unified the two sides. Their national (Arab) feelings have overcome

their political differences," said one analyst. "For once they realised that they both were losers in a war which has drained their military capabilities."

Another analyst cautioned, however, that the euphoria might not last. "Only time will tell whether the understanding can survive," he said.

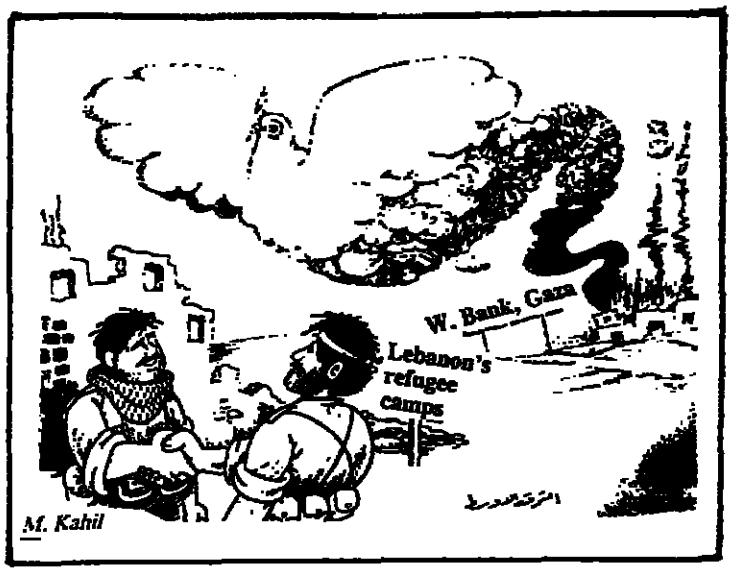
A Palestinian source told Reuters: "Israel has been a common enemy for both of us. We share the same fate and ordeal. It has bombed, killed and displaced Palestinians as well as Shi'ites without discrimination."

He said the thaw in relations was aimed at "unifying ranks and directing their guns at Israel instead of each other."

Berri announced on January 16 that he would lift Amal's siege of the three camps in honour of Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories, where Israeli troops have killed at least 39 people since December 9. Berri, also Lebanon's justice

minister, told reporters on Jan. 23: "A new history has started between Amal and the Palestinians. Even if the Palestinians want to fight us, we will not fight them. The war is over. The past is over."

Relations between Shi'ites and Palestinians had been strained since 1976 when Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters used Shi'ite villages in South Lebanon to attack Israel, triggering Israeli retaliation.



Before Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, which was aimed at crushing the Palestinians' military power, the fighters fought fierce battles with Amal in a cluster of southern villages.

Amal later laid siege to the camps, saying that most of the fighters forced to leave Lebanon by the Israelis had returned.

Analysts said the opportunities for the Palestinians to reassert their strength would be limited as Syrian troops had moved into the former Amal positions around the Beirut camps and Lebanese police would go to Rashidiyeh. Syria, the main power-broker in Lebanon and Amal's backer, had urged reconciliation between the two sides to unify their ranks before Lebanon's presidential election in August.

Witnesses at Rashidiyeh, home for about 17,000 Palestinians, said about 200 cheering men, women and children ventured out after the Amal fighters left and ended their isolation. The "camps war" shattered

both the sprawling settlements and nearby Shi'ite areas. Since last April, Amal had maintained a partial siege, allowing women and children to leave for food and medicine.

Although officials of both sides announced an end to the war, it has left deep psychological and physical wounds.

"The shelling, blockades, bloodshed and destruction cannot be wiped out overnight. The confidence needs time to be restored," said Um Mohammad, 43, a mother of five, at her dark one-room shack at Rashidiyeh.

"We're tired and sick of war. We had enough of suffering. We want to live in peace. We just can't live on the had memories," said Abu Khalil.

The walls of his home were plastered with pictures of two sons killed in the war. A third, crippled by a shell, sat beside him. "Hatred and bitterness will not lead us to peace," he said.

## Israel battling to restore tarnished image

By Ruth Sinai  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Israel is battling to protect its public image in the United States, pitting articulate envoys against nightly television pictures of bullets and tear gas in Israeli-occupied territories.

For the past six weeks, the major television networks have devoted extensive daily coverage to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Israeli troops quelling violent protests have shot and killed 38 Palestinians.

The clashes — said to be the worst since Israel occupied the Arab territories in the 1967 Mideast war — could erode support for the Jewish state among some 6 million American Jews and tarnish Israel's image in the United States as an "underdog nation surrounded by Arab foes."

Some U.S. news media have

recently been drawing comparisons between Israel's suppression of the 1.4 million Palestinians under its occupation and the segregationist policies of South Africa.

ABC television devoted a five-minute segment of its prime-time nightly news show to a point-by-point comparison between the restrictions imposed by South Africa on its black majority and by Israel on the Palestinian minority.

"The Israelis and the South African government do have one thing in common: They both rule over large populations which have inferior status," said anchorman Peter Jennings in his introduction.

The piece drew a rebuke from the Israeli foreign ministry and from Israel's ambassador in Washington, Moshe Arad.

Some newspapers also have drawn parallels between Israeli

and South African tactics.

In an effort to contain damage to Israel's image, Arad flew to New York this week for a round of meetings with major television network executives and journalists.

"I told them that by airing the (ABC) piece, they gave credence to the attempt by our Arab adversaries to portray us as a pariah state," Arad said in an interview.

In addition, the director-general of Israel's foreign ministry, Yossi Beilin, flew to Washington and New York for meetings with senior news media representatives, as well as American Jewish leaders.

"There is nothing less fair than comparing Israel with South Africa. Israel is an open democracy, the only one in the Middle East," he told reporters.

Beilin also met with 10 Israeli consuls stationed around the United States to boost morale

and discuss public relations tactics.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Benjamin Netanyahu, went on television to express his frustration. "I think that the American media has covered Israel and the situation there a little like the way the Soviet media has covered America," he said.

"They show a picture of a few homeless people on a sidewalk and they say, 'this is America.' What you're seeing is the tail-end of the story. You're not seeing the full story."

But the Israeli protestations appear to have had little effect.

"There's not much they can say. It's not a matter of public relations, it's a matter of an untenable reality," said Joyce Starr, head of the Near East programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington Research and study group. Starr, who has just returned

from a visit to Israel, said Israelis should be concerned "not about how it looks, but what it's doing to their society and how it's affecting their friends abroad."

Americans have had high expectations of Israel, partly because Israel has set such high moral standards for itself. "Let us be a light unto the nation," said Israel's first prime minister David Ben-Gurion, borrowing from the Bible.

"But how can you say you're a light unto anyone when your sons are shooting and clubbing (Palestinians) refugees?" said Starr.

Marvin Kalb, director of the press and politics centre at Harvard, said Americans view Israel as "the Western-style democracy it is, and expect the same standards they would from their own country. That's not fair. The United States is a mighty, secure power. Israel is surrounded by

enemies."

Kalb, formerly a television network correspondent, also said the effect of television images "has a resonance above and beyond the picture and the event themselves."

Israeli representatives are frustrated by this impact. "How do you fight those pictures? Even the best information campaign is no match," said Israeli embassy spokesman Yossi Gal.

Watching the nightly TV footage, one would think the Israeli-Palestinian problem began on December 8, he said. Adds ambassador Arad: "The focus on the violence is obsessive because it makes better footage. You don't see anything about the fact that Israel is trying to prevent the Lebanonisation of Gaza or to fight the Islamic fundamentalism in the West Bank. All you see are bullets, stones and firebombs."

## The Gulf: Rules may not change, but interpretations do

By Richard Pyle  
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — By clarifying its navy's "rules of engagement" in the war-torn Gulf, France has served notice that Iran's gunboats may no longer attack neutral shipping with impunity.

France's naval commander in the Indian Ocean region, which includes the Gulf, told reporters this week that French warships attempting to offer "humanitarian assistance" to unarmed neutral vessels under attack might fire on attackers if the warships came within range of their guns.

While diplomatic sources said this represented no change in the guidelines, it showed what every Gulf naval officer knows — that rules governing operations are subject to on-the-spot interpretation, according to circumstances.

Confusion over the rules of engagement appears inherent in the efforts by the U.S., French and other Western navies in the Gulf to sail a delicate line between protecting ships and becoming involved in hostilities themselves.

Rear Adm. Guy Labouerie said France would not try to provoke the Iranians, but in answering distress calls, "there are some consequences of the Iran-Iraq war that we will not accept at sea."

French diplomatic sources expressed exasperation that Labouerie's remarks were taken to mean that France was adopting a get-tough approach toward Iran and asking others to do the same. "Nothing has changed," said one informed French source who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The policy has been in effect for the past six months and it remains the same."

He said: "We are speaking about it now because of what happened last weekend."

In that incident, the French destroyer Duplex went to the aid of a Liberian-flag tanker under attack by Iranian gunboats.

It warned them it would shoot if they did not break off and the Iranians withdrew, the French said.

One French source said the Duplex was attempting to aid a ship in trouble, as required by maritime law.

"The difference is that when we go to aid a ship, we have guns," he said. "And if we come within range of the others' guns, we might shoot."

Diplomatic observers said the French action was probably also motivated by a recent increase in Iranian attacks and interceptions of foreign ships in the southern

part of the waterway and the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf.

The French sources said Labouerie also was misquoted as urging other navies deployed in the Gulf — the United States, Britain, Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium — to adopt the same policy.

"That is not what he said," one official complained. "The admiral was not saying others should shoot, but only that they should fulfill their obligations under international rules to help ships in distress."

To some extent, the rules of engagement are kept deliberately vague.

"You need a certain amount of flexibility. You don't want to be so specific that you box yourself in," said one U.S. officer, asking not to be named.

Last month, after British helicopters helped rescue crewmen from two non-British tankers set on fire by the Iranians, Britain's Defence Ministry denied that the Royal Navy had changed its rules of engagement.

The French statements triggered interest in Washington, where White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater was asked how the United States would respond to French urging that U.S. warships should also fire on Iranian attackers.

Fitzwater said he knew of no such "request" and added that the U.S. navy's rules of engagement had not changed.

Under the American guidelines, which are very similar to France's, U.S. warships may protect only vessels flying the American flag, and defend them as well as themselves if they believe they are in danger.

In the only reported instance of this policy being carried out, the "attacker" turned out to be an innocent fishing boat and one of its crewmen was killed.

While U.S. warships are under orders not to intervene in attacks on foreign-flag vessels, they respond to requests for "humanitarian assistance" from any ship in distress.

U.S. officials refuse to discuss what might happen if a U.S. warship responded to a Mayday call and found itself in a confrontation with the attackers.

Rear Adm. Harold Bensen, commander of the Gulf-based Middle East force, has answered the question simply by saying the situation has not come up.

Other officers, speaking privately, point out that any U.S. ship commander who believes his vessel to be in harm's way is not only permitted, but obligated, to defend himself.

## Volunteers nourish Gaza's spirit for resistance

By Ian Murray

JABALIYAH CAMP, Gaza — The "smugglers" are keeping the camp going. One of their ways climbs over a cactus hedge, passes through a hollow where the tear gas always hangs, and ends with a panting run across the sand to an alley before the next Israeli patrol goes by.

Jabaliyah has been under curfew for a week now. The food in the shops has run out. The U.N. emergency rations only supply the children. But life is going on and the spirit of resistance seems to be growing daily as the well organised "smugglers" bring in the food.

With one of the "smugglers" as a guide I slipped into the camp through the Israeli security cordon, which has been put up to try to seal the camp off from the outside world since January 13. Inside I was able to talk to some of the residents.

"Saed" has a photograph of his two-year-old son on the wall of his camp house. It is framed with Palestinian flags. His father fled to the camp from Ashkelon, a village near Ashdod, in 1948. "He sometimes goes back there to cry," says Saed.

He does not believe he will leave the camp even if there is an independent Palestine. "We struggle for freedom, not for a house," he says.

For the past week he has not changed his clothes. "There is no point. We stay indoors reading books and listening to the news. If anyone just looks outside the soldiers can come and beat him. If anyone goes in the street they catch them. I saw them take a six-year-old then beat him to make him tell where his father was. His father was dead but still they beat him."

"Each day the curfew lifts for an hour and then the volunteer committee comes, bringing bread and milk for the children. They ask for no money."

"Until we are an independent state we can continue like this, eating the bark of the trees if we have to. We are a simple people and can live simple lives. We don't need much. There is very good cooperation now and those with food and money are sharing it."

"Marianne" says she is worried about her two-year-old son. "He wants to go out into the fresh air. One day he got out and a soldier caught him and hit him and blood came from his nose."

She has bread and sweet tea for her family's breakfast. For lunch she tries to get tomatoes and potatoes to boil for a stew. When it rains she collects water in case the mains are cut off. "It is hard but we must struggle for our country," she says.

"Nabir" is one of the volun-

teers who help smuggle in the food and organise its distribution.

"The people have decided to go on with the resistance despite the many pressures by the soldiers on them," he says. There is very good cooperation and help to get food. The people in the camp, especially the young people, have established loyalty committees who bring in food secretly from outside.

"The young people are organised to fight the soldiers if necessary. If the soldiers are in a house beating women or children then someone will call out 'Allah Akbar' (God is great) and the young people come and throw stones and start a demonstration to distract the soldiers' attention."

The loyalty committee members slip out of camp along the secret paths to arrange for food donations. "Nabir" says it is given freely by people who want to show their support for those in the camps.

Where the old railway lines slashes across the main north-south road near El Bureij and Nuseirat camps, the food donations are dropped off. It is a quick, slick and noisy operation. A van or car slides to a halt and pitta bread in plastic bags, potatoes, tomatoes, and other vegetables are thrown out. Women come running to collect the food, cram it into shopping bags and

trudge back to the camp.

It all goes on within a hundred yards of an Israeli Army checkpoint on the road. Sometimes the troops seize and destroy the food, usually they do not and the women walk back unmolested with their "shopping."

The curfews do not succeed in sealing the camps, but they are succeeding in building a community spirit.

In El Bureij a 14-year-old boy recovering from a beating he said he had received from a soldier two days earlier summed it up. "A hit on the back which does not break it strengthens it," he said proudly.

There are many boys like him at Shifaf hospital in Gaza, which is now reserved solely for casualties of the uprising.

A 10-year-old boy sits up in bed grim-faced with a bullet hole in his chest, remembering the playmate who died by his side last week. A 14-year-old shows the hole where what he was told was a dum-dum bullet tore into his leg a fortnight ago.

She says "their pictures have lots of black. They draw barbed wire. One four-year-old drew barbed wire and a pair of scissors. He said they were to try to cut his father out of prison."

"I am educating these little ones and sending them out on to the street and then on to prison."

— The Times.

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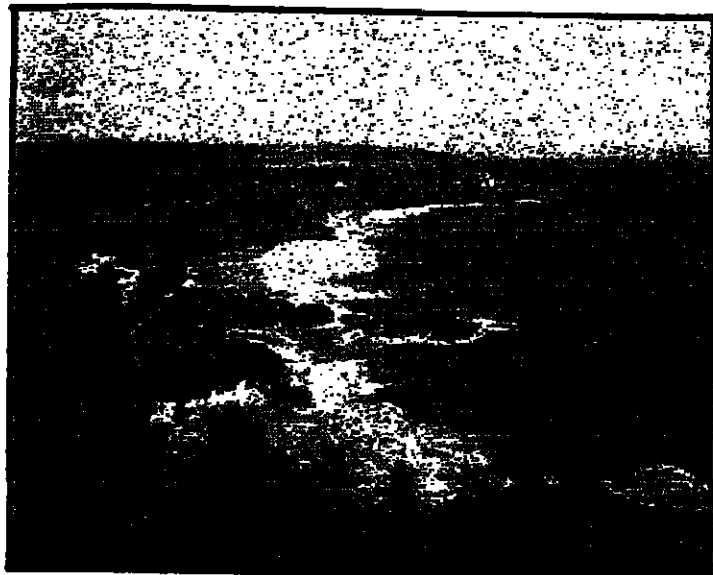
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## India bracing for the tourist boom



Kerala's beautiful coastline — palms, sea and sand

United News of India

THE mystique of the Orient has bounced back. India is once again a coveted destination on the itinerary of the international tourists. By present reckoning the coming years will see a tourist boom in India.

Statistically, though, India at present has a very small slice of the total tourist cake — just about 0.5 per cent. But the size of the cake is getting bigger, and so is India's share of it. Not only that, India is also having a bit of icing on the cake. Duration-wise, tourists coming to India have perhaps the longest stay compared to any other country in the world. On an average a tourist spends 28 days in India, a flattering tribute to the many splendoured things that India is.

India has the unique distinction of combining a remarkable historical and cultural heritage with marvellous scenic spots ranging from the majestic Himalayan peaks to a coastline of 3,000 kilometres dotted with some of

the finest beaches in the world.

The sculptural spectacle of the sun temple at Konark; the awe-inspiring frescoes of Ajanta and Ellora, the finely crafted marvels of Khajuraho, the rock temple of Thanjavur, the forts and palaces of Rajasthan — these are only some of the names which have attracted tourists from all over the world in the recent past.

Add to it the numerous game sanctuaries and national parks, the new destinations highlighting lesser-known cultural and historical centres as well as adventure-related excursions and breath-taking variety of India's customs and rituals, languages and folk arts, handicrafts and artefacts — and one is left admiring the "glory that is Ind."

In a silent way, Indian tourism is going through a sea-change. Hitherto the most popular tourist circuit in India has been what is known as the Golden Triangle i.e. Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. No doubt "Taj" is unparalleled for its romance and beauty but India

is more than just "Taj Mahal."

Some of the areas which earlier did not get foreign tourists because of absence of infrastructure have now been provided with basic infrastructure and are increasingly becoming popular with tourists from overseas. A case in point is the Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which is attracting a number of tourists from Japan, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

On this circuit are located places like Kushinagar, Piparwaha, Saranath, Rajgir, Nalanda Gaya — places associated with the life of Buddha.

Another upcoming stretch is the picturesque state of Orissa which could not exploit its touristic potential because of inadequate infrastructure. Work on expansion and strengthening of Bhubaneswar airport is under way and by 1989 the air port will be able to handle charters and wide-bodied aircraft. Once that comes through the beaches and monuments of Orissa would be within easy reach of foreign tourists.

Similarly, on the adventure-tourist front a number of initiatives taken recently have started yielding results in the form of increasing influx of tourists.

After Ganga, river rafting has been introduced in Testa which flows through Sikkim and north Bengal. Plans are under way to introduce water sports in Brahmaputra and Chindrapur rivers as well. Chilika lake in Orissa and Salal lake in Jammu and Kashmir — another two water bodies are attracting attention. A water sports institute is coming up in Goa and its commissioning is expected to give a boost to water sports throughout the country.

### Heli-skiing

The year 1988 will see the debut of heli-skiing in India.



Women in Mundu Veshti — the traditional dress of Kerala, southern Indian state

Decks have been cleared for introduction of heli-skiing in Gulmarg (Jammu and Kashmir state). Manali in Himachal Pradesh state and Uttar Kashi in Uttar Pradesh state are other two areas which are being considered for introduction of winter sports.

Earlier in 1980-81 when a number of hotel projects were cleared for Delhi, detractors of the move were legion who thought that Delhi will have a glut of hotels and that there would be no takers for so many hotel rooms. They have been resoundingly proved wrong for today hotels are doing well in Delhi. Similar is the occupancy situation in respect of hotels in Agra, Jaipur, Calcutta and Bombay.

To cope with the increasing tourist traffic the country would need another 25,000 to 30,000 rooms by the next decade. As many as 13,000 hotel rooms are in

the pipeline. But that still leaves a deficit of 12,000 to 15,000 rooms. A number of incentives have been offered to entrepreneurs to invest in hotel-building. As many as 30 cities have been identified as places with growth potential where hotel accommodation needs to be augmented.

A number of state governments have declared tourism (including hotels) as an industry and offered various facilities and incentives for tourism-related projects. While planning additional hotel accommodation the requirements of budget-tourists, both domestic as well as foreign, are being kept in view. Additional incentives are being offered to entrepreneurs going in for budget accommodation.

While planning these projects and constructions, due care is being taken of the environmental

fall-out. Certain guidelines have been laid down in respect of constructions along the sea-shore which put restrictions on distance from high-tide line as well as height of the structure. Similarly, tourism infrastructure in the Andamans islands and Lakshadweep islands is being planned in strict conformity with the requirements of ecology and environment.

Thus while there is realisation, in full measure, of the importance of tourism as an instrument of economic and social transformation, the need for harmonising the requirements of infrastructure with those of environment is not being lost sight of. Given the pace of development of infrastructure and growing popularity of India as tourist destination the nineties decade seems all set to be a "Destination — India" decade.

## Bubbling over in a healthy market

The head of a leading sparkling water spring claims that there is never a recession in his industry — the product keeps flowing and the public keeps on buying. Paul Betts meets Gustav Leven, the publicity-shy chairman of Perrier.

PARIS — It will go down in history as one of the great missed opportunities of British industry this century. After inventing the green, club-shaped Perrier bottle nearly 85 years ago, the British owners of the famous sparkling water spring in southern France sold the business back to the French just after the second world war.

The man who bought it was a former Paris stockbroker, Mr. Gustav Leven. Over the last 40 years, he has transformed Perrier into an enviably profitable international company, described by some as the IBM of the mineral water industry.

"When I first visited the Perrier plant at Vergeze, it was a shambles. There were broken bottles everywhere. Everything was done by hand. But I immediately thought this was a golden opportunity," said 73-year-old Mr. Leven in a rare interview. "It struck me at the time that all you had to do is take the water out of the ground and then sell it for more than the price of wine, milk or for that matter oil. I decided I had to buy the business myself and never sell it ever again."

Since then, concentrating with single-minded determination on the business he knows best, Mr. Leven has continued to expand Perrier's dominant position in the world mineral water market, at times against the advice of economists and management consultancy firms.

With nearly 55 per cent of the French bottled water market and between 25-30 per cent of the U.S. market, Perrier is now the undisputed leader of the mineral water business. Today, the company exports its green bottles to 120 countries around the world and controls a wide range of other springs in France, including Vichy-St. Yorre and the still water springs of Contrexeville of Volvic. It also owns a number of springs in the U.S., with colourful names such as Calistoga, Great Bear, Oasis, Ozarka, Poland Spring and Zephyrhills. After its \$450 million acquisition of U.S. Arrowhead Drinking Water company from Beatrice Foods two last year, Perrier has seen its U.S. annual sales double to nearly \$500 million.

In the U.K., where Mr. Leven also sees enormous potential for development, Perrier has recently acquired Buxton spring in Derbyshire. "The U.K. market for mineral water is growing by about 50 per cent a year. After the U.S., it is the second most promising new market for bottled water," says Mr. Leven.

Perrier's success is shown in the steady rise of sales and profits during the past few years. From FF2.4 billion (\$439 million) in 1980, sales have grown to nearly FF12 billion in 1986. Net profits have also increased at about the same rate from FF78 million to FF312 million during the same period.

Mr. Leven's involvement with Perrier started by accident. "In 1946 I was working for my father as a stockbroker when he asked me to find a buyer for Perrier which the British wanted to sell," Leven recalls. "I telephoned Sam Bronfman, the Seagram chairman, whom I knew quite well, and asked him if he was interested. It was February and he told me: 'I will come in the fall, keep it for me.' Leven took the answer to mean that Bronfman was not interested."

A few months later, he decided to visit the famous spring, which had been owned by Lord Harnsworth, the newspaper publisher, until 1936 and subsequently by other British interests. "After seeing the potential of the business, I bought the spring with four close friends and we took it over in 1948," explained Leven. The little green bottles were marketed with the irresistible slogan

"the champagne of table waters" and sales in France began to grow. In 1948, the spring employed 1,000 people to produce about 10 million bottles a year. By 1952, it was producing 150 million bottles.

After heavy investment to achieve maximum automation — including not only a modern, high-technology bottling plant but also a glass-manufacturing facility on the site of the Vergeze spring — Perrier production has shot up to 1.2 billion a year. If all the other bottled water operations subsequently acquired are included, the group's total production has reached 4 billion bottles a year.

After transforming Perrier's position at home, Mr. Leven turned his attention to the U.S. "When I started looking at the American market in 1976-77, everyone told me it was madness," he says. "I paid consultants to prepare market studies and all their conclusions were that it was not worth expanding in the U.S. The Americans, they said, will never drink mineral water and the market simply did not exist in the U.S."

But Mr. Leven was in New York at the time and noticed that there seemed to be no alternative to alcohol or sugary soft drinks such as Coca-Cola except for iced tap water with a strong flavour of disinfectant. "I concluded that there was clearly room for Perrier in the U.S. — whatever the consultants might have said."

Launched with great show business éclat, Perrier soon became a fashionable alternative to the traditional cocktail for diet- and health-conscious Americans. Perrier today accounts for about 85 per cent of all imported water in the U.S. In spite of the dollar's weakness, Mr. Leven says that the U.S. bottled water market continues to offer big growth opportunities for Perrier. Over the next five years, he expects the market to grow by at least 20 per cent a year in volume. "The U.S. market is the French market 40 years ago," he says. Indeed, in spite of the stockmarket crash, mineral water businesses are continuing to attract prices of two and a half times sales in the U.S. On that basis, Perrier's U.S. operations alone are valued at about \$1.25 billion.

Unlike other leading French food and drinks groups, Perrier has never been tempted by large-scale diversification. It has a leading position in the Roquettefort and French vintage blue cheese market, but otherwise Mr. Leven has always regarded mineral water as the group's core business.

He explains that large volumes are crucial in the bottled water market, and he expects it to grow even faster in coming years as consumers become increasingly health- and pollution-conscious. "There is never any recession in the mineral water market," says Mr. Leven. "Even at times of economic crisis, demand for mineral water continues to expand normally."

Mr. Leven remains very much in charge of the company's lean management. "Decisions are taken in five minutes and no-one spends any money without my approval," he says. He scoffs at recent takeover rumours. Control of the company is now shared by Mr. Leven, with just more than 25 per cent of shares, and the Exor group, with about 25 per cent. Exor, a holding company controlled by the Metzelopoulos family — a French-based family with interests in vineyards and property — reached an agreement with Mr. Leven about four years ago to keep control of the company stable and secure.

Mr. Leven has also sought to ensure long-term shareholder loyalty by generous dividends and a determination not to dilute equity by a string of paper acquisitions — Financial Times.

## Space workers struggling two years after Challenger disaster

By Matt Spetalnick  
Reuters

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — Two years after the spaceship Challenger exploded in a fireball, officials at the Kennedy Space Centre are still picking up the pieces of America's shuttle programme.

But officials in Washington say President Reagan plans to propose reviving the U.S. space programme with a mission to Mars, the creation of a moon base and joint U.S.-Soviet space exploration.

This week marks the second anniversary of the worst manned disaster in the history of manned space flight, an explosion that destroyed Challenger 73 seconds after lift-off on January 28, 1986 and killed all seven astronauts aboard.

Two years later, the shuttle fleet is still grounded, managers complain they lack workers to meet the new launch schedule, key administrators have been fired or demoted and experts criticise the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) approach to safety.

Administration sources expect Reagan to ask Congress to support an ambitious new policy to reestablish America as the leader in space exploration.

They say Reagan, who leaves office one year from now, plans

to answer critics who accuse him of indecision in reviving and recharting U.S. goals in space.

NASA officials say the president hopes to propose a joint U.S.-Soviet mission, when he visits Moscow this spring.

At the space centre, officials contend that morale has bounced back but space centre workers privately say that morale took another dive this month when NASA announced another delay in the resumption of shuttle flights until mid-July or August.

It was the latest in a series of postponement and some NASA managers believe the launch may not take place before the third anniversary of the Challenger disaster.

NASA officials say the frequent delays have been most frustrating for the astronauts, a number of whom have quit.

It's a lot more fun flying than sitting behind a desk," said Robert Crippen, who piloted the first shuttle flight. "The amount of time it's taking is depressing."

Yet Kennedy Space Centre is bustling with activity as workers gear up for a series of pre-launch tests.

All 2,200 workers laid off in the aftermath of the Challenger tragedy have been recalled and crews are working round the clock to prepare the shuttle Discovery for liftoff.

The space centre's managers

participated in the decision — later branded as "flawed" by a presidential commission — that sent the Challenger on its flight to disaster. Investigators blamed the accident on a faulty booster rocket joint.

"Absolutely nothing will erase this from our memories," said Charles Gay, director of shuttle operations.

In its final report in June 1986, the Challenger commission concluded that quality control at the space centre had eroded to the point of ineffectiveness.

In an effort to restore public confidence, NASA officials have taken dramatic steps to improve shuttle safety.

New Director Forrest McCartney, a retired air force general, ordered the retraining of all space centre workers. Some 100,000 pages of technical procedures detailing everything from changing lightbulbs to refurbishing the shuttle's engines were rewritten.

But serious problems still remain. There is a severe shortage of quality control engineers and space centre officials say they will be unable to meet this year's schedule of three shuttle flights unless a NASA hiring freeze is lifted.

Managers complain that the agency's new emphasis on safety has buried them beneath an avalanche of paperwork.



Challenger arcs skyward in a seemingly normal lift-off just seconds before the January 1986 disaster (file photo)

manned or unmanned.

An experiment last month, when Soviet test pilot Anatoly Levchenko was put immediately behind the controls of a conventional plane on touchdown after a week aboard Mir, was linked by space analysts to the Soviet shuttle programme.

But Soviet officials have declined to say whether there are

plans to make Levchenko the first Soviet shuttle pilot.

Despite the latest advances, ordinary Soviet citizens appeared to doubt that the United States would be out of the race for long.

"They'll catch up, probably in about five years. We're ahead now, then it will be their turn for a bit," was how one middle-aged Muscovite put it.

"They have better technology, but our scientific skills are no worse, and sometimes we manage to do things more simply, with results that are as good," he added.

Another man, in his thirties, took a similar view: "We give each other ideas — they gave us the shuttle, while we'll give them ideas for space stations," he said.

## Soviet space programme surges ahead

By Robin Lodge  
Reuters

MOSCOW — In the past two years, the Soviet space programme has surged past that of the United States, with endurance records, tests of its own reusable spacecraft and plans for a manned flight to Mars by the turn of the century.

As U.S. scientists struggle to resume shuttle flights, brought to an abrupt halt by the Challenger disaster two years ago, Soviet plans for the current year include unmanned probes to Phobos, one of Mars' two small moons.

The Soviet Union will also add extensions to its permanently manned orbiting space station Mir, where the current crew, commander Vladimir Titov and flight engineer Musa Manarov, are completing the first month of a year-long mission.

A senior Soviet space official, Vyacheslav Balebanov, said earlier this month that the extensions would give the cosmonauts more room to work in.

Mir has six docking ports, one of which is occupied by the module Kvant, launched last year with facilities for astrophysical research.

Balebanov, deputy director of the Space Research Institute, said the Soviet Union was now capable of installing even the heaviest scientific apparatus in space, using its new powerful booster rocket Energia.

Apart from the benefits of space experiments and research, Mir has enabled Moscow to test man's ability to cope with long periods of weightlessness.

Cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko, the previous space station commander who returned to earth last month after a record 326 days in space, told journalists he had little difficulty readjusting to gravity.

"My muscles were strong enough to support me... I went for a run the day after my return to earth," said Romanenko, 43, who grew taller by one cm during his mission.

He and crew-mate Alexander Alexandrov had kept fit through a rigorous exercise programme, with daily workouts on an exercise bicycle and jogging machine.

Plans are under consideration to send a doctor to the space station to monitor the progress of the current crew towards the end of their mission.

Soviet space officials say the current long missions have the practical purpose of finding out how cosmonauts would cope with a 30-month flight to Mars.

Vladimir Shatalov, director of the Soviet Cosmonaut Training Programme, said studies were under way on the need to create artificial gravity conditions in one section of the spacecraft to prepare cosmonauts for a Mars landing.

"This would be achieved by rotating the section at high speed,

in order to imitate terrestrial load through centrifugal force, gravitating the cosmonaut to the floor.

The Mars programme gets under way in July, when two unmanned spacecraft will be launched to Phobos. These will be followed by a series of further probes in the 1990s to test the surface and atmosphere of Mars in preparation for a human landing.

The Challenger disaster, in which seven U.S. astronauts lost their lives when their shuttle blew up seconds after take-off, has enabled the Soviet Union to catch up in reusable spacecraft research.

While the launch of the new U.S. shuttle Discovery has been put back until August, tests on a Soviet shuttle, similar in design to the U.S. version, have got under way.

Alexei Leonov, deputy head of Soviet Cosmonaut Training Programme told the East German news agency ADN earlier this month that "horizontal flights" of the new craft had been started and were showing good results.

These were understood to mean so-called piggy-back flights with the shuttle fixed to the top of a conventional aircraft.

Leonov said an unmanned version of the shuttle would be completed later this year, after which tests would start with a crew. It was not clear whether the first shuttle space launch would be

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## Maradona keeps Napoli on course for 2nd title

## Napoli crushes Milan

ITALY (Agencies) — Diego Maradona employed his rarely-used right foot to startling effect Sunday when he scored a fine second goal for Napoli as they maintained a three-point lead over AC Milan at the top of the Italian First Division.

The Argentine World Cup-winning captain struck a minute before the interval after Brazilian international striker Careca had opened the scoring for Napoli in the 12th minute.

Maradona's goal, in a 2-0 win, ensured his place as Italy's top scorer with nine goals ahead of team-mate Careca on seven and helped keep Napoli on course for a second Italian title win.

Apart from Milan, who struggled to beat Pisa 1-0, Roma were the only other team in the top six to win — a situation which prompted the daily sports paper La Gazzetta Dello Sport to declare: "The championship has two tyrants... Napoli-Milan, the march of the giants."

European footballer of the year Dutchman Ruud Gullit set up Milan's winner for defender Angelo Colombo.

Third-placed Roma beat Ascoli 3-0 with a penalty in each half from Giuseppe Giannini and a late goal from Stefano Desideri. Juventus drew 1-1 at Como where Renato Buso, 19, headed them ahead and Massimo Albiero equalised. Welsh striker Ian Rush failed to repeat the form which brought him four goals against Pescara in midweek.

## Real Madrid beats

## Valladolid

In Spain, where Real Madrid

maintained a relentless march towards the title with a 2-0 win at Real Valladolid, their great rivals Barcelona slumped again.

According to one newspaper, they "beat new records of mediocrity" as they went down at home to Osasuna, Jose Sarabia scoring the only goal.

Coach Luis Aragones returned to his duties after a bout of nervous exhaustion which he dismissed as less serious than reported. "I'm fine," he said. "But, from everything that's been said, you'd think I was dead."

To add to his problems — Dutchman Johan Cruyff and Briton John Toshack are among several names mentioned as his replacement — Aragones saw midfielders Bernd Schuster and Victor Munoz earn themselves automatic one-match suspensions for their fourth cautions of the season.

Real Madrid became the first team to win at Valladolid this season with goals from Martin Vasquez and Francisco "Paco" Lorente.

Real Sociedad beat sporting Gijon 3-0 to stay second ahead of Atletico Madrid on goal difference. Atletico beat Cadix 2-1.

Portuguese leaders and World Club champions Porto stretched their lead over Benfica to seven points with a 1-0 over Académica, Fernando Gomes scoring.



Diego Maradona

Benfica drew 0-0 Varzim and offered little encouragement for their last ditch showdown with Porto next week in Lisbon when a crowd of 120,000 is expected.

Heavy rain and snow curtailed the League programmes in Northern Europe.

Dutch League leaders PSV Eindhoven's match was postponed allowing Ajax to close the gap to five points by beating Sparta 4-0, John Bosman scoring twice and Denis Bergkamp and Arnold Scholten adding the others.

English First Division leaders Liverpool extended their lead to 17 points when they won 2-0 at Charlton — their 24th match without defeat since the start of the season — with goals from Peter Beardsley and John Barnes.

## Budd wins 1st competition race

OXFORD, England (R) — Former world cross country champion Zola Budd, bidding for a place in England's team at the World Championships in March, won her first competitive race of the season Sunday.

South African-born Budd, champion in 1985 and 1986, has said she wants to go to the championships in Auckland despite a warning by New Zealand that she will not be welcome and the threat of anti-apartheid demonstrations.

Her appearance at the Oxfordshire League Cross Country Championships Sunday was kept secret from other competitors until they lined up at the start.

Budd, who has been hampered by a hamstring injury and has not run a major race since the European Championships in Stuttgart in September 1986, won the three-mile race in 20 minutes 19 seconds.

"It was a good preparation for the international cross country trials at Gateshead Saturday," she said afterwards. "I really enjoyed the run but the course was very muddy."

Budd was granted British citizenship in 1984, raising protests from anti-apartheid groups.

Earlier this month, the Commonwealth Games Federation tightened up its nationality rules, extending the minimum period of residency required before an athlete can compete for a new country.

The federation was told New Zealand would not welcome Budd's participation at Auckland, which is the site of the next Commonwealth Games in 1990.

## Johnson clocks world-best mark in 60-metre race

SHERBROOKE, Quebec (AP) — Sprinter Ben Johnson, the Associated Press male athlete of the year, came within a whisker of shattering a world-best mark and suffering a potentially serious injury in a 60-metre race at the University of Sherbrooke Indoor Track Meet Sunday.

Johnson, who holds almost every sprint record, fell .06 seconds short of tying his world mark of 6.41, but it was the end of the race that provided the most excitement and a brief moment of concern.

As he crossed the finish line, the momentum of the Toronto sprinter carried him up the incline of the track and he tumbled over some padding that protected the runners from hitting the railing.

Johnson fell over the barrier and landed on the floor, a drop of about five feet (1.5 metres).

"I grabbed onto the curtain — that's what helped," said Johnson, referring to the net-like

material beyond the railing. "If I hadn't done that, I might have landed on my neck and got hurt pretty badly."

In bracing himself for the fall, Johnson said he numbed his finger while grabbing the curtain and slightly hurt his back when he landed on the floor.

The incident, which brought gasps from the crowd, some of whom gathered around Johnson, almost obscured the race.

After one false start, Johnson did not get his usual burst from the starting line, a setback that he attributed to a race official warning him to keep his hands closer to his body. Johnson normally likes to use a wider stance, with his hands sometimes coming close to spreading into the other lane.

For almost 45 metres, Brian Cooper, in the lane beside Johnson, was at his side, but the American sprinter was left behind by a Johnson burst, finishing .05 behind, in 6.52.

## U.S. basketball roundup

## Hawks basket 118 to beat Nets in close fight

ATLANTA (AP) — Dominique Wilkins scored 31 points and the Atlanta Hawks withstood a fourth-quarter rally to beat the New Jersey Nets 118-111 Sunday.

The victory gave the Hawks with the best record in the Eastern Conference, 29-11 to Boston's 28-11, and made Mike Fratello the coach of the East team in the NBA All-Star Game at Chicago Feb. 7.

The Nets, winless in 16 games on the road this season, chopped an 88-73 deficit after three quarters to four points twice in the final minute.

John Bagley's second consecutive 3-point basket made it 113-109, but Wilkins followed with two free throws. Buck Williams

countered with two free throws with 28 seconds left, again whittling the lead to four, but Atlanta closed out the scoring with three free throws.

Williams paced the Nets with 24 points and 19 rebounds.

## Pacers 128, Suns 109

John Long scored 24 points and Wayman Tisdale had 19 as the Indiana Pacers took control early and coasted to a 128-109 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Rookie Reggie Miller scored 17 of 63 points by the Pacers' reserves. The Suns got only 36 points off their bench.

Indiana never trailed in the second half, moving from a 60-53

## Hjartarson, Short and Yusupov score victories in 1st round of World Chess Championship

SAINT JOHN, New Brunswick (AP) — Johann Hjartarson of Iceland, England's Nigel Short and Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union scored crushing victories in the first round of the World Chess Championship Candidates Matches Sunday.

The other four games were drawn, including the one played by Yasser Seirawan, the United States' top player. Seirawan fought back from an apparently hopeless position against English grandmaster Jonathan Speelman.

The biggest shock of the round came when 24-year-old Hjartarson defeated Viktor Korchnoi, a Soviet defector who now plays for Switzerland.

Korchnoi, 55, the fifth ranked player in the world, reached an unfavourable position from the opening and eventually fell to killing checkmating attack.

"Korchnoi was made to suffer

in his favourite opening and Hjartarson played like a hero," said former world champion Boris Spassky.

The winner of the candidates series will challenge world champion Garry Kasparov for his title in 1990.

The victory in the six-game matches will later join former world champion Anatoly Karpov in a knock-out event to decide the challenge.

Nigel Short, 22, the sixth ranked player in the world, outplayed Hungarian grandmaster Gyula Sax, while Artur Yusupov easily defeated fellow Soviet Jan Ehlvest to move into early lead.

After falling into a trap, Seirawan, who comes from Seattle, lost a rook for a knight at move 15, but gained compensation when Speelman chose a bad plan in middle-game complications.

## West Indies trounces India

TRIVANDRUM, India (AP) — West Indies crushed India by nine wickets in the last One-Day Cricket International here Monday, clinching the seven match series, 6-1.

Chasing a victory target of 240 in 45 overs, the visitors scored 241 for one wicket in 42.4 overs.

Put into bat by West Indies skipper Vivian Richards on an easy pitched wicket, the Indians scored at will and, were at one stage, 160 for two.

But a middle-order batting collapse limited the Indians score to 239 for eight wickets.

The highlight of the Indian innings was a superb 101 by opener Krishnamachari Srikkanth. Patrick Patterson was the main

wicket taker claiming three for 34 runs off nine overs. Richards took two for 40 runs off eight overs.

The highlight of the West Indies innings was an unbeaten 104 by Phil Simmons and a solid 84 by Gordon Greenidge.

Ritchie Richardson pitched in with 37.

## South Australia

## snatches victory

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Captain David Hookes' sporting declaration paid off for South Australia on Monday when his team snatched victory against

New South Wales on the final day of their Sheffield Shield cricket match.

New South Wales were set a target of 283 runs from a minimum 100 overs when Hookes closed South Australia's second innings at Sunday night's score of 113 for three.

The gamble paid off as New South Wales were all out for 219 and South Australia recorded their second outright win of the season and first at home.

Australian spin bowler Peter Sleep and World Cup paceman Andrew Zesers produced their best form to clean up the last four New South Wales wickets for only 26 runs.

## Safety council blasts Tyson-Holmes fight

LONDON (AP) — Mike Tyson's fourth-round heavyweight title victory over Larry Holmes was criticised Monday by the British Safety Council as "an exercise in sadism and brain damage to the glory of the almighty dollar."

In a telegram to the independent broadcasting authority, council director general James Tye said televising the Friday night bout from Atlantic City, New Jersey, had violated "promises to reduce violence on our (television) screens."

"Not a single boxing expert or correspondent anywhere in the world had the slightest doubt that Tyson would beat Holmes, 17 years his senior," Tye, one of Britain's loudest anti-boxing voices, said. "Indeed, the only question was how badly Holmes would be beaten."

"This was never a true boxing contest, rather it was an exercise in sadism and brain damage to the glory of the almighty dollar and 73 other currencies."

Tyson floored Holmes, a former world heavyweight champion making a comeback at age 38, three times in the fourth round of their scheduled 12-round fight.

## Roche in memorial race

GRISY-LES-PLATRES, France (R) — Tour de France champion Stephen Roche and other leading racers competed in a Cyclo-Cross event Sunday in memory of French cyclist Pascal Jules, who died in a car accident last October aged 26.

American Greg Lemond and Frenchman Laurent Fignon, who preceded the Irishman as Tour de France victors, were also among the competitors in the tribute race.

The event was won by French amateur Cyclo-Cross champion Bruno Lebras.

## Broncos — more than a one-man threat

DENVER (AP) — For all the pre-Super Bowl hype about the Denver Broncos being a one-man team, there is a voice of reason that says otherwise.

Actually, there are two such voices, one belonging to Broncos offensive line coach Alex Gibbs, and the other to offensive tackle Dave Studdard.

Quarterback John Elway cannot weave his magic without help, they say.

Gibbs says flatly the outcome of Super Bowl game next Sunday will hinge on how well the Broncos' offensive line controls the Washington Redskins' two fine defensive ends, Dexter Manley and Charles Mann.

"That's the game," he said. "If we can control them, then we've got a chance. If we don't, we're

going to get beat." Studdard, who will be blocking against Manley most of the game, said, "If I don't do a good job on Dexter, it will be a long day for John."

The Redskins devised a workable defensive scheme in the National Football Conference Championship game, first containing the scrambling of Minnesota quarterback Wade Wilson and then sacking him eight times.

Denver figures the Redskins will do much of the same in the Super Bowl, bringing Manley and Mann hard on the outside to keep Elway in the pocket, and then sending tackles Dave Butz and Darryl Grant up the middle. Elway tends to be most dangerous when he can get outside and buy time to find a receiver, often for a big play.

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## High level European Community team to hold financial talks in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Representatives from the European Commission and the European Investment Bank are expected to arrive in Jordan Jan. 31 to hold talks with Jordanian authorities on the use of the 100 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (approx. JD 43 million) provided as grants and loans under the cooperation agreement signed in January 1977 between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Community.

The funds are made available from the third financial protocol, which runs from 1987 to 1991. The financial protocols form a vital component of the agreement and allow for participation in economic, technical, social and scientific cooperation between the two partners.

The European Commission team will be headed by Eberhard Rhein, director of external relations for Mediterranean, Near and Middle East countries. Pietro Pettovitch, head of external operations, will lead the team from

## Oman to boost gas exploitation

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman, a moderate non-OPEC oil producer, is to step up efforts to develop its state-owned gas industry to save fuel oil, government sources said Monday.

Six million riyals (\$15 million) will be spent developing three gas production plants this year, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A 275,000-ryal (\$710,000) government study to be carried out over the next five months will review technical and organisational options.

The gas network powers de-

fence installations in addition to oil production and light industry, the sources noted.

The government announced earlier this month that gas reserves have risen to 9.6 trillion cubic feet, an increase of three trillion cubic feet over figures announced a year ago.

Gas consumption totalled 50 billion cubic feet last year.

Oman, which produces 565,000 barrels of oil a day, launched a gas exploration programme in 1984 when oil prices were falling.

Petroleum and Minerals Minister Saeed Al Shanfari renewed Oman's pledge to coordinate with

the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to maintain production levels that would prevent prices deteriorating.

In statements published by the Al Watan newspaper, he said OPEC and non-OPEC producers "would not allow" a recurrence of a 1986 prices slump to a record low of less than \$10 a barrel.

He said Oman was consulting with other non-OPEC producers on ways of helping OPEC defend its price system based on a benchmark of \$18 a barrel. He mentioned Egypt, Norway and Mexico.

## Soviets sign oil deal with S. Yemen

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — South Yemen and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement to develop the Red Sea country's oil fields, the Middle East Economic Survey reported Monday.

The weekly oil industry newsletter said the contract was signed Jan. 12 by the Yemeni ministry of energy and mines and the Soviet state firm Technoexport.

The agreement covers South Yemen's Iyad West and Amal oilfields and includes construc-

tion of a 200-kilometre oil export pipeline from the northwestern Shabwa region, where oil reserves are estimated 3.8 billion barrels, to a terminal at Bir Ali on the Gulf of Aden.

The financial side of the deal was not mentioned. The Soviet Union is a strong supporter of South Yemen.

The weekly said a second engineering contract for Iyad West was expected to follow soon.

A comprehensive agreement

for the development of the fields will be signed later this month when Deputy Prime Minister and Energy and Minerals Minister Salih Abu Bakr Ibn Hussein, visits Moscow, the survey added.

South Yemen, long impoverished, will become a major oil exporter in about 18 months. Oil trucks from the fields is already being processed at the country's only refinery near Aden, the capital.

## Algeria, Spanish firm reach oil pact

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has concluded a major oil and gas exploration pact with Spanish company Cepsa in the second such deal under a new law permitting greater foreign involvement in the sector, energy ministry officials said.

The terms of the contract between the Algerian state oil company Sonatrach and the Spanish firm had been agreed and the accord would be signed soon, officials told Reuters Sunday.

They declined to give details, but said the pact was similar to one signed between Sonatrach and the Italian oil giant Agip in December.

That pact was the first signed after a new law came into force aimed at attracting outsiders by removing many barriers which restricted the scope offered to non-Algerian companies.

Algeria has increasingly sought foreign expertise to help it tap

huge oil reserves and boost export earnings to try to pay foreign debts estimated at between \$16 and \$20 billion.

The officials were optimistic other companies would soon sign similar joint pacts under the new law which offers tax breaks and a major stake in any new find.

Hydrocarbons last year accounted for 90 per cent of Algeria's exports and about 45 per cent of government revenues.

## IFAD extols OPEC contributions

ROME (OPECNA) — Idriss Jazairy, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), said Sunday OPEC could be rightly proud of its contribution to the fund since IFAD's inception.

In an exclusive interview, he described OPEC countries' role in helping to launch IFAD in 1977 as "magnificent."

"There is admiration for OPEC's performance even by those who don't always see eye

with the organisation on certain questions," Jazairy added.

He said despite the difficulties through which OPEC countries had been passing for some years, total OPEC commitment to the fund since 1978 stood at nearly \$1 billion.

Jazairy said that IFAD had cofinanced ten projects with the OPEC Fund, contributing \$90 million to the fund's \$34 million. Eleven projects had been cofinanced with aid institutions in

OPEC countries, the contribution of the latter being \$313 million.

He said IFAD had financed seven projects in three OPEC countries — Indonesia, Nigeria and Algeria — with \$133 million. Another \$270 million had been mobilised through external sources. Four new projects worth \$30 to \$35 million to be set up in OPEC countries were now in the pipeline.

## Bahrain reports higher offshore banking assets

MANAMA (AP) — Assets of offshore banks in Bahrain, the major financial activity on the Gulf island state, had dropped by about 20 per cent two years ago but recovered at the end of last year, Bahrain's finance minister was quoted as saying Sunday.

"The banks' assets in Bahrain were \$53-\$54 billion, decreased to \$44 billion two years ago, and went up again to \$60 billion by the end of last year," said Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim in an interview published by the Saudi Arabian newspaper Arab News, also available in Manama.

Bahrain established itself as an offshore banking centre for the oil-rich Gulf after the heyday of oil prices in the 1970s. The economic recession in the region, precipitated mainly by the sagging oil market, had been accompanied by consecutive reports of pullouts by offshore banking units, which numbered 76.

But the minister said that only two banks and three administrative units had left the country. He said the offshore banking units injected about 200 million dinars (\$20 million) into the national economy through operations, rents and training, in addition to the 10,000 dinars (\$26,000) they paid annually as "charges" to the states.

The offshore banking offset was attributed to the fact that the tiny central Gulf was running out of oil.

In 1932, Bahrain was the second Gulf country after Iraq to strike oil. The minister said Bahrain's oil reserves may dry up by the end of 1990s.

But he said oil earnings still constitute 60 per cent of the country's annual revenues.

He said a 500-million dinar (\$1.3 billion) for fiscal 1988 will soon be announced, projecting a 10 per cent deficit.

The minister estimated that oil revenues would account for 220 million to 320 million dinars (\$270 to \$830 million), while revenues from non oil-sources including 170 million dinars (\$440 million) from indirect tax, will cater for the remaining 40 per cent of the budget.

Bahrain's annual budget for the past decade has been depending on an annual \$100 million paid by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, he noted.

Bahrain was not able to benefit from fluctuations in oil prices, because of its limited production which has decreased from 76,000 barrels per day in 1972 to around 40,000 barrels per day, he said.

"Had it not been for our relationship with Saudi Arabia, we would have been in a very difficult situation now," he said.

In addition to its own oil exports, a major part of Bahrain's oil revenues comes from the processing of Gulf crude oil at the island's huge refinery.

Bahrain was the first country in the region to resort to local borrowing through treasury bills, and Abdul Karim said he would ask his government to allow him to raise the present borrowing ceiling from 100 million dinars (\$260 million) to 300 million dinars (\$780 million).

Bahrain is a member of the



Ibrahim Abdul Karim

six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an economic and security alliance that also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Abdul Karim told Arab News that he was not happy about the measure of financial cooperation among the six GCC states despite the numerous accomplishments in other areas.

"It is still far below my expectations," he said.

He said that on a bilateral basis, cooperation is satisfactory but within the group as a whole entity it was not. "We have liberated trade, realised the free movement of individuals and capital but have not yet unified custom charges or adopted consolidation measures for the protection of our industries."

Abdul Karim said he did not believe that the six countries would have a unified currency in the near future.

"We have to lay the groundwork first by consummate coordination of financial and monetary policies and the currency will automatically follow," he said.

## United Gulf Bank completes restructuring, reports '87 loss

BAHRAIN (R) — United Gulf Bank (UGB) announced Sunday a 1987 loss of \$37.3 million and said it had completed a two-year restructuring to phase out commercial banking operations.

The small Bahrain-based bank, hit hard by bad loans, said as part of the restructuring it had sold all its Latin American debt in the international market.

The bank is now being taken over by Kuwaiti interests through a share tender and is refocusing its business on investment activities.

Managing Director Mahmoud Al Nouri said in a statement the bank took "stern measures" in 1987 to reduce its loans and contingent liabilities and to reappraise remaining assets to establish realistic market values.

"These measures have not been without significant cost, but the bank is now in a much stronger position to pursue its investment strategies," he said.

Gross operating revenue before provisions or extraordinary items fell from \$14.4 million in 1986 to \$11.7 million last year.

## Infrastructure cost Arab Gulf states \$150 billion in ten years

MANAMA (OPECNA) — The six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have invested more than \$150 billion on infrastructure over the past 10 years. A study prepared by the Gulf International Bank here said that GCC states would be able to ride over the current cycle of economic stagnation. The report added that the completion of infrastructural projects and the use of available resources had also helped in reducing the volume of GCC imports. It noted that the GCC non-oil sector was expected to record a reasonable growth level over the next few years. The study expected the contribution of the industrial sector to gross national product to increase from eight per cent at present to 10 per cent in the next two years.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cabinet forms team to AESC talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet decided in a session Sunday to form the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the fourth session of the Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) scheduled to be held in Tunis from Feb. 1-4. The delegation would be headed by Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabba' with the membership of secretary-general Mohammad Saqqaf and other ministry officials.

### Loans to Jordanian private sector rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — Credit facilities offered by Jordanian banks and financial institutions to the private sector in Jordan from January to September 1987 amounted to JD 1,789,738,000 compared to JD 1,596,725,000 in the same period of 1986, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). The bulletin said that the CBJ alone granted credit facilities amounting to JD 5.16 million against JD 4.212 million in the previous year. According to the bulletin, the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) offered farmers JD 29.85 million during the same period, up from JD 27.564 million in the same period of 1986.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1988

## YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Do some things to increase your attractiveness as well as your possessions early in the day. If you have an opportunity to become involved in any new financial obligations, be sure to consider them carefully.

**ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19):** If you spend any money this morning, do so carefully. Make sure your car is in good running order before you drive anywhere tonight.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20):** Do whatever is necessary to improve your health. Some reliable friends can help you greatly in handling some practical affairs.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21):** Help out a friend who is having a hard time, but keep anything which transpires confidential. Be kind and considerate to your mate.

**MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21):** Avoid an acquaintance who is annoying this morning, or your mood will be spoiled. Smile more and gain your aims easily.

**LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21):** If you get involved in any credit or civic matters today, be sure to keep your wits about you. Be appreciative of some help from a superior.

**VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22):** Don't be taken in by a flashy

newcomer; this person has your worst interests in mind. Arrange tomorrow's schedule tonight.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Avoid a business acquaintance who may feel cheated in some way, and later all will be cleared up nicely. Don't be harsh with your mate.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Get an early start this morning and arrange a time to have a discussion with an associate. Decide which projects require your attention.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Try to make your surroundings at work more pleasant and efficient with the help of a co-worker. Enjoy the home life tonight.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20):** This morning is a good time to plan future entertainment, but cut down on expenses this evening. Show your mate how devoted you are.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19):** Plan how to make your home more attractive this morning. Be sure to stay within your budget while shopping this evening.

**PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20):** Be sure you are on time for any early appointments so you can gain greater benefits. Drive very carefully this evening.

## THE Daily Crossword by Evelyn Barshoof

ACROSS

- Decision maker
- Undertook
- Pitfall
- Old word
- Overnight
- Stockings
- Home of Scarlett
- Climbing plant
- Repose
- Flash in the pan
- Sandra and Ruby
- Rel. of sis
- Run around
- Symbolize
- Arctic explorer
- Latin sitcom
- New Guinea
- seaport
- Author
- Signoid
- Slide
- Statistics
- Lettuce
- Long for
- Not as frequent
- Desk type
- Customers
- Tab
- Playing stone
- Relaxing spot for golfers
- Feb. month
- Metric measure
- Charity
- A-one
- Cloth strainer
- Witner
- Speed
- Ermine
- Time period

DOWN

- Wager
- Algerian seaport
- Art garment
- Pattern
- Fused
- Carbun songs
- Diesel
- Geological times
- Hindrance
- Give to (approx. of)
- "The — Not Taken" (Frost)
- Afr. fox
- Squint
- money —
- Fr. department
- Mote
- Mortise and —
- Cultivate
- Drudge
- Prong
- Light signal
- Western
- Wings up
- Soviet sea
- Assessmate
- Concerned with the present
- Talk
- Hussey or Roman
- Exceedingly
- Command
- Narrow furrow
- Alliance
- Object of worship
- Noche
- Coup d' —
- Verbo
- Forfeit
- Lamia
- Corn unit

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

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- Overnight
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- Climbing plant
- Repose
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## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were drifting at their lows in what dealers described as "seriously low" levels of trading. An early advance on Wall Street gave institutional investors little incentive to enter the market, dealers said.

By 1532 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 13.6 to its low of 1,757.3. Volume recorded by the stock exchange automated quotation system (SEAQ) was 205.2 million shares at 1500 GMT. "The really big players don't seem convinced this market's going to rise enough in the short term," one dealer said. Others suggested some institutional cash found its way into government bonds, which Monday have risen by more than half a point.

Turnover by Monday afternoon is roughly half the average of around 410 million share volume seen last week. "There's no way volume is going to double between now (1500 GMT) and when the SEAQ mandatory quote period (MQP) ends," one dealer said.

Share volume reported via SEAQ is measured between the 0900 GMT to 1700 GMT MQP when market makers are obliged to deal at prices shown on their SEAQ screens.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

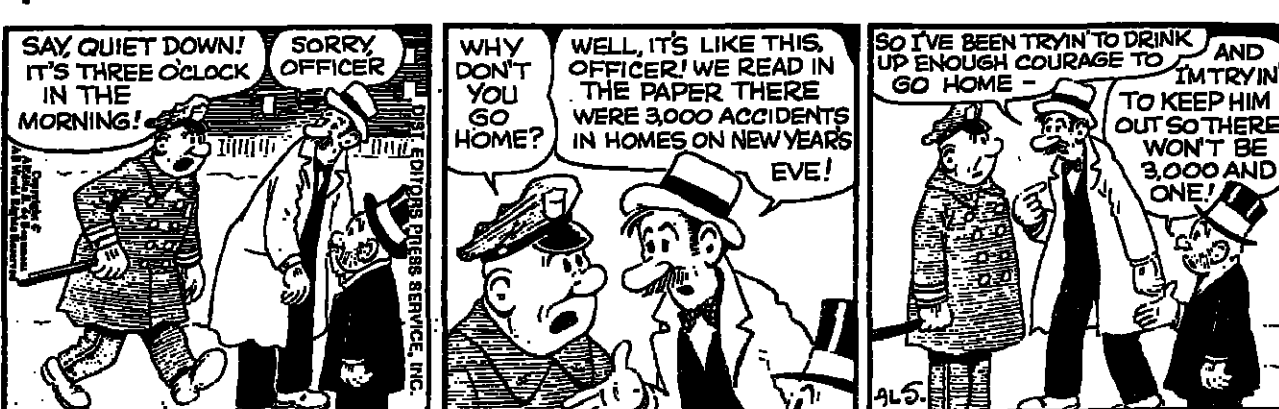
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7755/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2795/2805	Canadian dollar
	1.6738/48	Deutsche marks
	1.8801/11	Dutch guilders
	1.3570/80	Swiss francs
	34.94/97	Belgian francs
	5.6400/30	French francs
	1230/1231	Italian lire
	127.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.0100/50	Swedish crowns
	6.3700/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.4200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	476.70/477.20	U.S. dollars

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"I gave your meat loaf to a dog. He forced a cat to eat it."

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RITTA

CEPIE

MIRSUQ

CARAFS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "YOU?"

Yesterday's Jumbles: BEGUN GOUGE YUMULT HEALTH  
Answer: A neighborly person talks to her neighbors instead of this—ABOUT THEM



# Ortega willing to yield power if people wished

NEW YORK (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has written an unusual five-page letter to President Reagan promising to give up power if that is the people's will, the New York Times reported Monday.

Ortega also said his government would reduce the size of Nicaragua's army, expel Soviet and Cuban military advisers and prohibit any foreign military bases if Nicaragua and the United States came to an agreement, the newspaper said.

"Mr. President, with all due respect, allow me to remind you that democracy is and always has been the objective of our revolution," the Times quotes Ortega as writing.

"Full democratisation likewise means the holding of local and national elections. Obviously democracy also means respecting the outcome of those elections, including turning over the reins of power to the opposition, if that is what the people wish."

The letter was delivered to the U.S. State Department Friday night but Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, told the Times in an interview Sunday he did not think Reagan had seen it yet.

Abrams cited a statement Friday by Commandante Bayardo Arce, a top Sandinista Party leader, that the ruling party "will never give up power" and a similar one by Ortega a few weeks

earlier. Abrams called the letter to Reagan "less than fully persuasive."

Nicaraguan officials have acknowledged the letter was part of a broad strategy to seek an end to U.S. aid to the Nicaraguan contra rebels, the Times said.

Reagan will make a new request for contra aid this week, believed to be far below the \$270 million that administration officials talked about last year. Congress is to vote on the request on Feb. 3-4.

The Times described the letter as remarkable for its nonbelligerent, almost pleading tone.

"Mr. President, too many people have died," the paper quoted Ortega as writing. "If you were to end your unfortunate policy of pressure, you would see Nicaragua move even more quickly toward democratisation."

The Times reported Ortega as writing: "It is not only possible for our two countries to coexist, it is possible to be friends, even partners. This is my government's and my own personal, profound desire."

Meanwhile Nicaraguan government troops searched dense jungle Monday for survivors from a

cargo plane shot down after it air-dropped weapons to U.S.-backed contra rebels, officials said.

Photographers flown by helicopter to the wreckage saw the charred remains of two crew members killed when the plane was hit by a surface-to-air missile Saturday night, some 200 kilometres south east of Managua.

"The sky turned red in the east and everyone ran out of their homes," said Manuela la Ponce, a San Carlos resident.

Ortega said Sunday the plane was provided by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and had taken off from neighbouring Honduras, violating a regional agreement for ending conflicts in Central America.

U.S.-made fire extinguishers and scraps of military clothing were found lying amid the mangled wreckage. Several automatic weapons lay nearby, but the plane had apparently already air-dropped its cargo when shot down, officials said.

Military officials said two bodies were also found inside the wreckage of the DC-6 cargo plane, some 40 kilometres east of San Carlos in thick jungle close to the Costa Rican border.

A third man, Alejandro Sanchez Herrera, 25, survived the crash and was captured by the troops of the left-wing Sandinista government.

## Bangladesh death toll climbs to 15

DHAKA (R) — Opposition parties accused police Monday of shooting dead at least 15 people and wounding 300 when they opened fire as anti-government demonstrators tried to hold a rally in southern Bangladesh at the weekend.

The Home Ministry said the trouble started because the protesters attempted to defy the law by staging the rally in Chittagong Sunday and attacked police with hand grenades and guns.

It said eight people were killed and at least 100, including some police, were injured.

Opposition leader Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman told reporters: "We have accounted for 11 dead bodies so far but police have burned four bodies to destroy the evidence."

The opposition said riot police had opened fire on thousands of people and some prominent opposition leaders were among the wounded.

Chittagong, a city of 2.5 million people and the main port in Bangladesh, was virtually paralysed Monday by an eight-hour protest strike called by the opposition. Roads were deserted and shops and offices closed.

Police said a group of opposition activists set fire to Chittagong's municipal offices and damaged two election offices.

## E. Germany investigates suspects for treason

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany said Monday it was investigating several people, including detained dissident songwriter Stephan Krawczyk, for suspected treason.

The authorities had discovered Krawczyk, held since an attempted demonstration eight days ago, had links with "secret service-controlled circles in West Berlin," the official East German News Agency ADN said.

"Investigative proceedings were started on Jan. 25, 1988 against several people by the responsible organs of the GDR (East Germany) on suspicion of treasonable activity," ADN said.

It did not name the others under investigation. It was not immediately clear which article of the criminal code was being invoked and what sentences were possible.

## Shultz leads drive for INF approval in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz is the first witness in President Ronald Reagan's drive for Senate approval of a treaty with the Soviet Union to abolish intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

The treaty, signed last month at the superpower summit in Washington, has the endorsement of the West European allies. Vice President George Bush, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and all the Democratic candidates for president.

But a determined band of conservatives led by Sen. Jesse Helms will try to amend the 34 votes required to kill the treaty by denying it a two-thirds Senate majority.

Helms has accused the Soviets of submitting false data on their nuclear forces and has tried to revive accusations levelled principally in the past by Reagan, that Moscow is a habitual violator of treaties with the United States.

Treaty supporters are con-

cerned that Senate opponents of the treaty could attach amendments that would imperil the accord by requiring a reopening of U.S.-Soviet negotiations.

While Shultz makes a case for the treaty before the Foreign Relations Committee, Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci will try to sell the pact to the Armed Services Committee.

The Pentagon chief was expected to be questioned on the impact of the U.S. missile withdrawal on Western Europe and what the United States might do if the Soviets violated the agreement.

The Foreign Relations Committee has the legal authority to act on the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty, whose fate ultimately will be decided by the Senate. The Armed Services Committee has an advisory role.

The INF accord requires the elimination of all U.S. and Soviet missiles with a range of 300 to 3,000 miles (500 to 5,000 kilometres).

## N. Korea retaliates against U.S. with diplomatic sanctions

TOKYO (R) — North Korea announced tit-for-tat diplomatic sanctions against the United States Monday in retaliation for Washington's decision to brand Pyongyang a terrorist state.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, said Pyongyang would bar Americans from entering the country and refuse to negotiate with Washington for the return of the remains of U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean War.

"As a retaliatory step against the United States ... we will refrain from meeting American diplomats in the international arena," KCNA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

Last week, Washington tightened visa controls and banned

diplomatic contacts with Pyongyang after deciding that North Korea was responsible for the bombing of a South Korean airliner.

North Korea again Monday denied responsibility for the bombing and said the United States was a terrorist state.

"The United States is the world's number one terrorist state which engages itself in state terrorism in all parts of the world," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Meanwhile Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita called the bombing of a South Korean jet unforgivable and the Foreign Ministry Monday said Japan would impose sanctions against North Korea for masterminding the disaster.

## 90 killed, 60 injured in Chinese train accident

PEKING (R) — At least 90 people were killed and more than 60 seriously injured when an express train overturned in the hills of southern China in the country's second major transport disaster within a week.

The number 80 express from Kunming to Shanghai left the tracks and turned over in the hills of Guizhou province.

The accident occurred early Sunday morning and was re-

ported by the official media about 20 hours later. The cause was not disclosed.

Troops and police were sent to the site of the accident, more than 300 kilometres from the nearest major town, to maintain order and ferry the injured to hospital.

Railways Minister Ding Guangxun rushed to the scene of the crash and has apologised for the accident, the official New China News Agency said.

## Kabul troops withdraw from Khost road

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan government forces have withdrawn from most of the Gardez-Khost Highway, scene of a well-publicised battle to break a rebel siege at the end of 1987, according to Radio Kabul.

The official radio, monitored in Islamabad, said Sunday that the move was made to allow members of the Jadran tribe who had fled the area during the fighting to return to their homes.

The Soviet-backed government hoped to keep the 125-kilometre road open through negotiations with the local people, it said, quoting a government statement.

But it warned the anti-Communist guerrillas who had closed the road for more than eight years that the government would deal decisively with them if they blocked the highway again.

Afghan rebel sources in Paki-

stan also said Soviet and Kabul government troops had pulled back Friday from fortified posts they had built along the road, leaving it exposed to guerrilla attack.

Thousands of Soviet and Afghan government troops, backed by tanks, artillery and aerial bombing, launched a major operation in November to reopen the road and break the rebel siege of Khost, near the Pakistani border.

Meanwhile, Afghan President Najib told U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez Sunday that his country will participate in the next round of Geneva talks in hopes that it will be the last round of discussions to settle the Afghan problem.

The state-run Radio Kabul quoted Najib as saying that the Afghan delegation to the U.N.-

sponsored talks will take part "as always with necessary flexibility of good faith and political good will and in the hope that this round of talks will be the last and lead to fundamental achievements."

The U.N. undersecretary-general for political affairs has been conducting shuttle diplomacy and mediating between representatives of the Afghan and Pakistani governments in indirect negotiations in Geneva since 1982.

The next round of talks is slated for February.

Radio Kabul said Najib also explained "once again, the Republic of Afghanistan's unchangeable position regarding the normalisation of the situation around Afghanistan and ensuring peace in the region."

## Haiti president-elect pledges democracy

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haitian President-Elect Leslie Manigat has pledged an honest, democratic government and called for national unity to help the country emerge from 30 years of dictatorship.

Hours after being told of his victory in the Jan. 17 elections — which other candidates and foreign observers have said were rigged — Manigat promised Haitians "a democratic government, clean, competent, and totally devoted to the urban and rural masses."

The military junta's Electoral Commission in charge of supervising last Sunday's polls gave slightly different figures Sunday night than earlier, saying Manigat received 50.27 per cent of the votes, instead of 50.39 per cent.

Emphasising the tremendous difficulties facing the impoverished Caribbean island nation in its struggle to "emerge from the abyss" of dictatorship, Manigat, 57, said he was welcoming all Haitians of good will.

"I am a man of dialogue. We must all work together, together, together, together," Manigat said in a televised speech.

He said the army had carried out its task of leading Haiti to elections and added that General Henri Namphy's junta would "soon be returning to barracks."

The U.S.-trained Haitian army stands as the country's main organised force, and Manigat is on record as saying that nothing can be done in the country "without the support of... the army."

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## New poll shows close Democratic race in Iowa

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Congressman Jack Kemp added heat to the presidential campaign by calling opponents George Bush and Bob Dole the "old guard of the Republican Party," while a new poll showed the Democratic race in Iowa up for grabs.

In other presidential campaign developments Sunday, Richard Gephardt defended his trade bill against criticism that it was "non-sense" as the seven Democrats met in New Hampshire for a debate — their second in a three-day string.

Kemp complained that Bush and Dole would "definitely be a step back from what Ronald Reagan started in 1980."

"Bush and Dole represent the old guard of the Republican Party," he said on the CBS Television programme Face the Nation, ignoring his own 18 years in Congress.

"I would like to see the Republican Party have a populist as its candidate, not an elitist," Kemp said, adding that the party should look beyond the "country clubs ... and fortune 500 companies" to the poor, minorities and elderly.

Gephardt was a prime target at the Democratic debate, a reflection of his position in the front tier of candidates in a poll published in Sunday's Des Moines Register, the largest newspaper in Iowa.

The congressman defended his proposal to impose automatic sanctions against nations that have trade imbalances with the United States as a result of unfair practices.

"The whole purpose of my trade policy is to move us into a changed situation where we can really break foreign markets open," Gephardt said.

Tennessee Senator Albert Gore Jr. said of the automatic sanctions, "that's nonsense." And former Senator Gary Hart said it was "the worst idea I've heard of in this campaign."

The Iowa poll showed Gephardt, Illinois Sen. Paul Simon and Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis bunched tightly together — Gephardt at 19 per cent, Dukakis at 18 per cent and Simon at 17 per cent. They were followed by Jesse Jackson with 11 per cent and former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt at 10 per cent.

Hart's support among Iowa Democrats dropped off dramatically. The poll put him at 13 per cent, half his support of a few weeks ago. Gore trailed far behind.

## Taiwan rebels want president to become party chief

TAIPEI (R) — Young parliamentary rebels look set to score a surprise victory in their campaign to install Lee Teng-Hui, Taiwan's first island-born president, as chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party.

Lee became president on the death of Chiang Ching-Kuo earlier this month but a public battle has been raging about who should succeed Chiang as head of the two million-strong party, which has wielded supreme power since 1949.

The United Daily News said Monday it seemed clear that Lee would become acting chairman and "barring a major political accident" be confirmed in the post at a congress of the ruling party in July.

Over the past few days, government-controlled newspapers have been predicting that party elders would give way to supporters of Lee, a native Taiwanese, like 85 per cent of the island's population.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino

appealed to voters to reject candidates controlled by Communist rebels as Filipinos in five violence-plagued provinces voted in delayed local elections Monday.

Polls were open from 7 a.m. (2300 GMT) until 4 p.m. (0800 GMT) in the Luzon provinces of Ilocos Sur, Abra, Quezon and Ifugao, and in Maguindanao province of Mindanao Island. Significant results were not expected before Tuesday.

No serious incidents were reported on election day in the affected provinces. But the military said a gubernatorial candidate in Abra province, retired Brig.-Gen. Eustaquio Purugganan, and council candidate Victoria Bringas escaped injury when suspected Communist rebels fired on their car late Sunday near the municipal hall in the town of Penabua.

About 2,000 troops were deployed in the five provinces, where up to 1.25 million people were expected to cast ballots.

Troops in full battle gear parolled the streets of Vigan City, 335 kilometres north of Manila, as well as in other towns in Ilocos Sur province. The military said helicopter gunships were placed on standby in case of attacks by Communist rebels.

In Cotabato City, 880 kilometres south east of Manila,

Brig.-Gen. Jesus Hermosa warned in a radio statement that the military would not hesitate to use force to quell election violence in Maguindanao.

The military has said Quezon, Abra and Ifugao are areas where the Communist New People's Army (NPA) hopes to influence the balloting.

Regional elections were held in 62 of the country's 73 provinces on Jan. 18. Voting was postponed in 11 provinces because of fears of violence.

Voting in the other six provinces was rescheduled for various dates. At least 90 people, including more than 40 candidates, were killed in election-related violence nationwide after campaigning began on Dec. 1.

Meanwhile, the government-run Philippines News Service said Monday that the Commission on Elections proclaimed renegade Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo as the winner in the governor's race for northern Luzon's Cagayan province.

Aguinaldo was linked to an August coup attempt but was never charged. Instead, he left the Philippine constabulary and organised a private army to fight Communist rebels with the support of the military.

Aguinaldo's opponents had sought unsuccessfully to have the election nullified, claiming the

former colonel used threats and coercion to win votes.

In her weekly radio programme Sunday, Aquino urged voters to reject candidates who had given in to rebel pressure. The military claimed many candidates had bought "safe conduct passes" from the guerrillas to ensure their safety while campaigning.

"It is important for us to send as many of our forces as possible to those troubled areas so they will be in a better position to provide protection, not only for the candidates but also to ensure that the people will be able to vote in a free and orderly manner," Aquino said.

The man nominated to be the new Philippines' defence secretary said Monday that a key to defeating the Communist insurgency was to improve life for Filipinos by providing them with basic services.

Gen. Fidel Ramos made the remarks during ceremonies at Camp Crame, where Gen. Renato De Villa transferred command of the Philippine Constabulary to Maj.-Gen. Ramon Montano. The constabulary is the nation's internal security force.

As part of the top-level military shake-up, De Villa is to succeed Ramos as Armed Forces Chief of Staff in ceremonies scheduled for Tuesday. Ramos has been nominated as defence secretary, succeeding Rafael Ilto, who was

announced his resignation last Thursday.

The appointments are subject to approval by a joint congressional commission.

Ramos, a 59-year-old graduate of the U.S. military academy, told several hundred military and civilian defence employees that the 160,000-member military cannot defeat the 24,000-strong New People's Army.

He said that to "solve the insurgency, the government must establish a programme of delivery of basic services and livelihood opportunities that could ensure a better future to the people."

Aquino nominated Ramos for the defence post Thursday after Ilto resigned. Ilto complained at the time his proposals for reorganising the armed forces and defeating the rebels had been ignored.

In his letter of resignation, Ilto, also a West Point graduate and a counterinsurgency expert, said Communist rebels had grown "alarmingly strong" because Filipino governments had failed to provide for the country's 58 million people, most of whom live in poverty.

Ramos said "the successful conduct of the counterinsurgency campaign is based on the combination of efforts on the civilian side of government, the police and the military organisation."

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### Fergie expecting a baby

LONDON (R) — Britain's Duchess of York, wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Andrew, is expecting a baby in August, Buckingham Palace said Monday. The announcement ended weeks of speculation in the British press that the red-haired former Sarah Ferguson, known by her popular nickname Fergie, was pregnant. "The Duke and Duchess of York are very pleased to announce that the Duchess of York is expecting a baby in August," said a spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace. Queen Elizabeth's official residence in London. She said the duchess hoped to continue public engagements until the beginning of June. Prince Andrew and Sarah were married in July 1986. The duchess, 28, has become one of the most popular members of the royal family. She has maintained an action-packed life-style that included learning how to fly aeroplanes and helicopters like her husband, a pilot in the Royal Navy.

### Broadway shows dominate London awards

LONDON (AP) — Folies, Stephen Sondheim's poignant Broadway musical from 1971, was named best musical of 1987 at the Laurence Olivier Awards. Serious money, Caryl Churchill's savage comedy running on Broadway, was named best play in the black-tie ceremony that was televised live in Britain from the Victoria Palace Theatre. A View From the Bridge, Arthur Miller's 1955 tragedy, won awards for Best Actor, Michael Gambon, and Best Newcomer, Susan Sylvester. Kiss Me Kate, a Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Cole Porter's 1947 musical, won awards for Best Musical Actors, John Bardon, Emi Wolk and Nicola McAuliffe. Choreographer Trisha Brown of the United States won the outstanding achievement in Dance Award for her engagement at Sadler's Wells Theatre last November. The Outstanding Achievement in Opera went to the English National Opera's powerful production of Dmitri Shostakovich's Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk. Best Actress in a play went to Judi Dench for her performance as the Queen of the Nile in Shakespeare's tragedy "Antony and Cleopatra."

### Charles, Diana fly to Australia

LONDON (AP) — The Prince and Princess of Wales flew to Australia to join the country's 20th birthday celebrations. Prince Charles, 39-year-old heir to the throne, and 26-year-old Diana boarded an Australian Air Force Boeing 707 at Heathrow. The couple's 10-day tour of Australia was officially to start Monday afternoon when they hand over Britain's bicentennial gift — the square-rigged sail-training ship Young Endeavour. Other royal tours are scheduled for the bicentennial year. In May, Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, will attend the opening of the Australian parliament. The Duke and Duchess of York will visit in early Autumn. Elizabeth is queen of Australia, which is a member of the Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies. Before returning home, the couple will spend three days in Thailand to celebrate the 60th birthday of King Bhumibol. Besides two vans of luggage, the couple took "the ashes," a treasured cricket trophy that has been a focus of competition between England and Australia for more than 100 years. The urn, purportedly containing the charred fragments of a wooden cricket bat, usually is not allowed out of Britain — even when Australia wins the series. But to honour the bicentennial, the trophy is being sent for display during the bicentennial test match starting in Sydney on Jan. 29.

### Officer killed with his own gun

DALLAS (AP) — A man seized a policeman's gun and fatally shot the officer in the face as he pleaded for his life while some people in a crowd of onlookers yelled "shoot him," authorities said. Officer John Chase, 25, who last month switched from an evening to a day shift to spend more time with his bride of three months, was attacked Saturday as he was writing a traffic ticket. A crowd of about 30 people gathered around the officer and his assailant, a homeless man with a history of mental illness, according to police and witnesses. "The officer was saying, 'don't shoot me. I'll help you whatever way I can.' But the guy shot him in the head," witness Melitta Johnson said. "One girl said that people in the crowd were saying, 'shoot him, shoot him again.'"

Police Lt. Jerald Calane. Witnesses said the attacker then stroked down the street, dangling the gun from his hand. The suspect, Carl Dudley Williams, 34, was shot by off-duty officers who responded to the call. The man died a few hours later at Parkland Memorial Hospital, police said. Investigators said they knew of no motive for the shooting, but Chief Billy Prince and some of his officers blamed recent criticism of the department by some city council members for creating a dangerous environment for police.

### Soviet population rises to 284.5 million

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet population rose to 284.5 million at the start of 1988, and the average Soviet citizen can now expect to live 69.6 years, TASS has said. The official Soviet News Agency said the average life expectancy had risen by almost two years, but did not say over what time period. Average life expectancy for Americans is more than 71 years. Western specialists attribute the lower Soviet figure to living conditions that have traditionally been harsher, fatal industrial accidents, alcoholism, a colder climate and other factors. The Soviet life expectancy statistic was once regarded as so sensitive it could not be published. In May, the weekly magazine Ogonyok reported that "toward the end of the 1970s... the average life expectancy of men fell to 62 years." It said the downward trend was halted, then reversed in the early 1980s.

### Man dies after fall from opera balcony

NEW YORK (R) — An elderly man who dove backwards to his death off the top balcony of the Metropolitan Opera during a performance of Verdi's Macbeth, was an avid opera-goer who lived only a block away. "Everybody at the Metropolitan Opera knew him," a police spokesman said after 82-year-old Bantcho Bantchevski fell 80 feet from the railing of the fifth balcony of the opera house into the empty orchestra seats below. "He just went over just like he was doing a back dive," said opera-goer Marjorie Woodburn of Brooklyn, New York. Audience members shrieked, but no one else was seriously hurt. Ushers and opera enthusiasts said Bantchevski was a regular opera-goer who they believed was also a singing coach, but he had been acting strangely earlier in the performance. During the first intermission, he had been sitting on the edge of the balcony, rocking back and forth, witnesses said. "He seemed disoriented to me," said Woodburn, adding that ushers had repeatedly pulled him from the railing. But in the intermission after the second act, he fell. "I saw him sprawled out between seats in the orchestra," said Joe Panarello, an English teacher and opera regular.

### \$30 mistake nets \$10m lottery

COLUMBIA, Illinois (R) — A \$30 mistake won bartender Sue Zera \$10 million in the Illinois State Lottery. Zera, 47, who tends bar at Ollie's Tavern, mispunched 30 lotto tickets for a regular customer and had to pay for them herself when the customer refused to accept them. One of the tickets, which cost her \$30 after she sold off 20 tickets to friends, turned up a winner and she will receive \$387,500 a year for the next 20 years after taxes are deducted. Zera said she would try to continue working at Ollie's for a while. "I'm too young to retire," she said. "I think I'll continue to work at least as long as the public will let me." As for any plans for spending the money, Zera said that she had yet to give it much thought but did know of a couple of immediate purchases. "One granddaughter will get the (teeth) braces she needs," Zera said. "And the other one — well both of them can go to college if they want to."

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### EACH TRICK IN EACH TIME

Both vulnerable. North deals

NORTH	
♠ 82	
♥ J652	
♦ AK108	
♣ AQ4	

WEST	EAST
♠ KQJ9	♥ 764
♥ 104	♦ KQ8
♦ 742	♣ QJ93
♠ 10653	♥ 872

SOUTH	
♠ A1053	
♥ A973	
♦ 65	
♣ KJ9	

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

hearts and a weak doubleton in spades, North clearly preferred game in the known eight-card fit.

Had declarer won the king of spades lead with the ace and cashed the ace of hearts, he would have been defeated. Instead, he allowed the king to lead the first trick, then won the continuation.

Since he had only seven fast tricks, and would have to lose at least two trump tricks, he could not afford to draw trumps. To make his contract, he had to ruff two spades in dummy and set up a long trump in his hand, all the while maintaining trumps in the table to protect against the defenders cashing spade tricks.

The first step in the campaign was to concede a heart. East won the trick and shifted to the queen